

Press release: People and peace 2024

Folk och fred 2024 was held in Sälen and online January 13-15 with an increased number of participants on site. The meeting became a starting point for several new initiatives that bring together the peace, solidarity and environmental movement and the launch of international collaborations.

The initiative Peace and just climate transition received a promising boost forward. It now gathers many in the peace movement and is supported by Friends of the Earth and climate activists. The participants in Sälen were also inspired by Tomas Magnusson's speech about the importance of standing up against the agreement on US bases in 17 places around Sweden. Initiatives for several protest meetings were taken immediately.

Rosy Zuniga from Mexico and the World Social Forum (WSF) invited everyone to hybrid meetings in connection with the next global gathering. It is held in Nepal 15-19 February where 50,000 participants are expected to come. International Peace Bureau (IPB) Secretary General Sean Conner also attended People and Peace. With the help of IPB, the People and Peace Network hopes to be able to spread the peace and just climate change initiative internationally.

The Palestine issue received its rightful place in an appeal from the EU Parliament by Clare Daly, from Swedish-American Eleanor Goldfield and Victoria Strand, veteran of Ship to Gaza. Turkey's bombing of Kurdistan was also raised as an important issue by leaders from Rojava and representatives of the Kurdish National Congress.

The People and Peace network was also able to demonstrate success in the fight against repression. The Russian war opponent Boris Kagarlitsky was unexpectedly released from custody after six months and escaped prison. The increasing repression against peace and climate activists and journalists such as Julian Assange and the threats to freedom of expression were highlighted on Folk och fred. This together with several initiatives to secure the food supply such as food sovereignty and the Potato Appeal, a nation wide action to plant potatoes.

Attached

Statement from the organizing group

Links to all features under People and Peace 224

Peace and justice now!

The organizing group for People and Peace 13-15 January 2024

Sweden and the world need peace and justice now! We cannot let war and increased inequality within and between countries stand in the way of building peace through a just climate transition. Only through disarmament and transition to a more just society can we save humanity from destruction through global warming or nuclear war.

That is why we support the initiative Peace on and with Earth from the working group for peace and just climate transition of Swedish Peace and Arbitration society (SPAS), which has been supported by Artists for Peace and Friends of the Earth. We hope that it can form the basis for cooperation between the climate, transition, environmental, solidarity and peace movements in both Sweden and internationally. We also support ceasefires and peace talks in all ongoing wars. The escalation of

violent conflicts must end.

The force that now has the opportunity to resist the escalation is everyone who sees the refusal to take up arms as an important step for the future of humanity. Anyone who stops listening to leaders who believe that the only way to peace is with guns. Peaceful coexistence, common security and disarmament must prevail. This can happen by popular forces in all countries starting to work for this common goal. In this way, we can build a counterweight to the states and large corporations that drive the escalation of violence, often with great power blocs behind them.

We also support all efforts to create food security and mutual cooperation in all localities in the country and in the city and in all countries. The transition network's call to plant potatoes and continue the Potato Appeal is an important way of creating confidence in our ability to take responsibility together for the food that is needed. We continue to work in the same spirit as the call Without farmers no civil contingency and what the global peasant movement La Via Campesina stands for with its work for food sovereignty. We are inspired by initiatives for cooperation for expanded local democratic management of common assets. We also work for cooperation beyond the market and the state in villages and suburbs and other neighborhoods in Sweden and around the world.

We work for a social model that is not based on others being subjected to looting, starvation and poisoning. We must, as the call Peace on and with the Earth says: "have a resource-conserving society, and then a thorough change of the economic system and the whole society is required - a change that benefits both those who live in the countryside and in the city and people who work in agriculture, forestry, industry and service industries."

We can get them by wresting power over the financial and technological systems, the management of natural resources and mass media out of the hands of a few rich capital owners and superpower blocs. This through a program of disarmament for social and ecological justice built on popular cooperation across all borders. A collaboration with the interests of the rural and urban majority in the centre.

People and defense (Folk och försvar, a yearly gathering for the military, business spokespersons, civi, society and political parties) have put the idea that peace is created with weapons before the idea that peace is created through common security, diplomacy and peaceful coexistence. Instead of creating trust in everyone's joint ability to secure the peace and strengthen our preparedness, the government invested in creating mistrust. Partisan political speeches against groups in society came before cohesion.

All parties in the Riksdag support the doubling of the military expenditure and that we should look at war with a special European and not universal yardstick. A decision has been made to give the USA access to 17 bases around the whole of Sweden (according to an agreement to be ratified later by the parliament). Our country has turned into a staging area for NATO and a bombing target in the event of a war between great powers, which has increased our vulnerability. The resources are taken from healthcare, school and care and climate transition becomes impossible.

Swedish business and the arms industry, together with organizations such as the Atlantic Council, which work for the interests of the United States, have been given free space in the Swedish mass media and on Folk och försvar. Together, the business community's influence organization Frivärld has long run a campaign against independent peace and environmental voices. Now the state has also begun to take over the views of business and the United States on independent popular movements. Laws are adapted to restrict freedom of expression, the rule of law is undermined and climate activists are portrayed as threats, as shown by Civil Rights Defenders in the report one year

with the Tidö Agreement. The Equality Authority has given a company led by former employees of the military intelligence service a mission that has led to a large number of people and organizations being without basis designated as security threats with a business think tank as one of its sources. We are against allowing the special interests of large corporations and a culture shaped by former intelligence agents to spread in Sweden or other countries.

The People and Peace network has contributed to international solidarity with those who oppose war and protect the rights of conscientious objectors in East and West. The unexpected release from custody of Russian war resister Boris Kagarlitsky is a special success to celebrate for us and all friends of peace. We will continue our work against repression in East and West without double standards.

We look forward to continued Nordic cooperation for the Nordic region as a nuclear-weapon-free zone and oppose the bases of foreign powers in our countries. We stand in solidarity with all those who are oppressed and work for constructive solutions here and now to solve the social and ecological crisis of our time.

We look forward to:

January 30 Free Julian Assange! Defend freedom of expression! Biocafé Tellus, Midsommarkransen 1 18:30

3 February Housing policy in a time of war and social and ecological crisis, European webinar before WWSF

February 15-19 World Social Forum (WSF) Kathmandu, Nepal

February-May protests against NATO and Sweden's Exercise Steadfast Defender 24

March 1-31 Israel Apartheid Week 2024 <https://bdsmovement.net>

March 8 International Women's Day

17 April International Farmers' Day of Struggle

26-28 April European Common Space for Alternatives (ECSA), Marseilles

1 May Workers' International Day of Struggle

Action week April-May Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)

13-15 June Folkemøde on Bornholm with the peace movement tent.

June 25-30 planned Nordic summer camp for peace, solidarity and the environment - "a little bit of hope can light a spark"

5-7 July Food protection (Matvärn) meeting in Kalvefall

6-7 July action days against NATO in connection with the 75th annual meeting in New York

July Nordic People's Parliament, Hardanger Academy

Around August 9-11 Österlen's peace festival for peace on Earth and peace with Earth

Saturday 13 Jan.

Pass 1 - International section

Towards Peace, Justice and World Social Forum 2024

1.1 - The International Peace Agenda

- Clare Daly, EU Member of Parliament (MEP)
- Sean Conner, International Peace Bureau (IPB)
- Rosa Elva Zúñiga López, World Social Forum secretariat member, Consejo de Educación Popular de América Latina y el Caribe - CEEAL

Video: https://youtu.be/fgzbrr47_Ak

1.2 - The struggle for alternatives and global resistance

- Ashish Khotari, Global Tapestry of Alternatives
- Salih Muslim, leader of PYD, Rojava

Video: <https://youtu.be/q0Bv4-9dpe8>

1.3 - Swedish and German changed security role and relation to the US and the world

- Eleanor Goldfield, journalist and filmmaker
- Peter Wahl founder of Attac in Germany

Video: https://youtu.be/ve7_Sfvs7tw

Section 1.4 - The world order, peace and climate justice

- Patrick Bond, climate justice activist, South Africa
- Göran Therborn, sociologist, Sweden

Video: <https://youtu.be/NMH4G0ggKx0>

Sunday 14 Jan.

Session 2 - Introduction

- Lars Drake, former chairman. for No to NATO, with a summary of People and Defence.
- Gudrun Schyman, Antimilitarism and the function of violence

Video: https://youtu.be/_pB3QgyuZhs

Pass 3 - Current conflicts and possible hopes

- Victoria Strand, Ship to Gaza and the Israel-Palestine conflict
- Andi Olluri, writer
- Valter Mutt, ex. foreign policy spokesperson for the Green Party

Video: <https://youtu.be/b4HbGUy52DU>

Pass 4 - Stop the persecution of independent peace and environmental voices in the East, West and South

- Pia Björstrand, chairman of Klimataktion and defender of climate activists, etc.
- Hakan Cifci, Kurdish National Congress
- Arne Ruth, Julian Assange Committee
- Tord Björk, co-founder Folk och fred

Video: <https://youtu.be/839QqfgqxJc>

Pass 5 - The Nordic region as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, no to foreign military bases

- Ingalill Bjartén, Women for Peace, opens
- Tomas Magnusson, chairman of Swedish Peace Gothenburg

- Bitte Vatvedt, Action against Base Agreement with USA, Norway
- Thomas Wallgren, peace activist and philosopher, Helsinki Finland
- Tove Jensen, chairman Demos, Denmark

Video: <https://youtu.be/JgsTXCKofiw>

Monday 15 Jan.

Pass 6 - We are building a peaceful future. Now!

Food protection, Forest protection, Power protection, Learning protection

- Thorsten Laxvik, farmer, Edsele
- Karin Saler from Tantolunden, architect, urban gardening and CSA agriculture
- Ina Troll on sustainable food systems
- Joel Holmdahl on cooperative farming
- Jörgen Andersson, farmer in Jämtland.
- Arci Pasanen on the Transition Movement

Video: <https://youtu.be/OZ2z8VjE-HQ>

Pass 7 - Disarmament for welfare and the environment.

- Ann-Margarethe Livh, former city councilor in Stockholm, now housing activist, International Arena
- Jaan Cortobius and Erik Lindqvist, Working Group for Peace and Just Climate Change/members of Swedish Peace

Video: <https://youtu.be/LNjhx7kxs2I>

More information is available on the website: <https://folkochfred.wordpress.com/konferensen-folkoch-fred-2024/> which is updated continuously, with video links and links to talks and presentations in text form.