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Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt

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SUMMARY

G8

» Call for the Anti-G8 Action July 2008

The annual summit of the 'Group of Eight' nations (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, UK and US) takes place at Toya Lake in Hokkaido, Japan. At the 2007 summit in Heiligendamm, one of the main themes was poverty in Africa, but what their proposal to fight it, shockingly, was the deregulation of investment in Africa. From its behavior we have learned that for the G8, even human rights and poverty are just another opportunity for capitalist expropriation. The main theme, this year will be ecological issue whereas the G8 itself is responsible for the destruction of the the natural resources of the world. The so-called Group of Eight does not have any legitimate right to decide planetary affairs! Let us organize together the widest possible global network and create an unimaginably varied, rich, and powerful movement. By so doing let G8 know that a world that is totally different from the one driven by the capitalist principles, a world that is based upon the principles of autonomy and mutual aid is possible.

Simultaneously the 7th edition of the People's Forum will take place in Koulikoro, Mali. This aim of this initiative is to contribute to the fight against neoliberal policies and to focus the debates on a national point of view. About 800 participants will attend to 30 workshops and meetings, in a perspective of strengthen the continental dynamic of social movements.

Links:

<http://a.sanpal.co.jp/no-g8/?q=node/43>
<http://www.jca.apc.org/alt-g8/?q=en/node/218>
<http://www.nadir.org/nadir/initiativ/agp/g82008/index.html>
http://gipfelsoli.org/Home/Hokkaido_2008
<http://www.forumdespeuples.org>

Philippe Diaz' movie The End of Poverty ?

» The 2008 International Critics' Week at the Cannes festival selected Philippe Diaz' movie The End of Poverty ?

With so much wealth in the world, how is it possible that there should be so much poverty ? The end of poverty? takes us back to the beginning of the modern age, which is also the beginning of the colonial period, to understand not just when but also how it all began. International experts as well as victims contribute to our understanding when they point at colonialism, market economy, the Third World Debt, the appropriation of land and natural resources as factors that maintain and indeed develop poverty in Third World countries, condemning those who attempt to survive to a daily struggle against an increasingly

hostile environment. Isn't it time for us to wonder why 25% of the world population use up over 85% of the planet's resources ?

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3359>

Africa

» Let us act to lift the blockade on the population of Ifni

by Attac / Cadtm Maroc

Since Saturday, June 7 early in the morning, a fierce repression has fallen on the citizens of the town of Sidi Ifni Ait Baamran, in the South of Morocco and against its youth that, fed by false promises of employment and economic advancement of the region, have been blocking the port for the last week. The police and rapid intervention forces have been displaced by thousands from several regions of Morocco. Police forces have surrounded the city, carried out raids on homes, arrested and (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3447>

» Someone must speak up for Kenyans

by KENGO

Kengo is a coordination of grass roots organizations in Kenya, which the CADTM international network collaborates with. Here is their call for a campaign of solidarity with Kenyans being illegally detained.

Comrades,

Hundreds of poor, sick Kenyans are being illegally detained after being discharged from government hospitals because they are too poor to afford their medical costs. This is unacceptable. Can you help? Someone must speak up for Kenyans.

Despite the various promises by(...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3353>

» African Liberation Day: the people must prevail

by Horace Campbell

In this essay, Horace Campbell looks at the importance of Africa Liberation Day, its changing relevances as Africans are betrayed by the architects of first independence and how, through struggle, we can reclaim and fulfill its promise.

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3395>

» United States Supreme Court Order Clears the Way for the Khulumani International Lawsuit to Go Forward

by Khulumani Support Group

Khulumani Support Group, a national membership based organisation of victims and survivors of Apartheid, welcomes the order issued by the United States Supreme Court yesterday that the judgment of the Second Circuit Court of Appeal in the Khulumani International Lawsuit stands. This significant development opens the way for the case to go forward to trial.

The circumstances of the Supreme Court Order are that the Court lacked the necessary quorum of six justices to issue an opinion.

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3364>

Asia

» Trade unions under attack in Pakistan

by Farooq Tariq

Trade unions activists in several cities of Pakistan are facing arrests, tortures and kidnapping by the bosses and state agencies. Workers are fighting back against these attacks with utmost sacrifices. The announcement by Pakistan Peoples Party government to lift restrictions on trade unions activities has brought a new wave of unionization in many private industries on the one hand while a counter current of repression by bosses on the hand.

The bosses are not used to it. They have made(...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3380>

» Governments urged special audits on foreign debt management

by ANTARA News

A non-governmental organization urged the government to conduct special audits on the management of Indonesia's foreign debt in order to ascertain its effectiveness from the viewpoint of the government as its user and the creditors' responsibility.

"The use of foreign debt must be audited comprehensively and transparently so that the public will have an understanding of the government's rationale in covering state budget deficits with foreign loans," Dani

Setiawan, chairman of the Coalition(...)
<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3381>

» Towards Indonesia Free From Debt

by Koalisi Anti Utang (KAU)/Anti Debt Coalition Indonesia

The Third National Meeting of Anti Debt Coalition (Koalisi Anti Utang) held in Yogyakarta on 11st-15th April 2008 had delivered several recommendations to urge agenda 'Indonesia free from debt.' This meeting mandated Dani Setiawan as chairman of Anti Debt Coalition for period 2008 to 2012.

These resulted recommendations rely on facts that development model that lean on foreign debt has caused seizing of Indonesia political and economy sovereignty. Together with conditionalities attached (...)
<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3350>

» The Debt Relief Package of Rupees 60, 000 crores (\$ 15 billion): Can it stop the farmers' suicide in the country?

by Sushovan Dhar

55-year-old Dattu Chaudhary, who owned 3 hectares of land committed suicide in Nara village in Maharashtra, India on March 4, 2008 barely four days after the Finance Minister of India, P. Chidambaram announced a mammoth loan waiver for farmers. Two other farmers also ended their lives on the same day. All three were dry-land cotton farmers in Vidarbha, a region synonymous with farmers' suicides in India as cotton growers have been driven to death by debt. Chaudhury gave up hope when he saw(...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3355>

Latin America

» International civil society organisations protest Telecom Italia's new attacks and confiscatory measures against Bolivia

by People's Social Summit

Civil society organisations meeting in the People's Social Summit in Lima denounce the recent decision of ETI and Telecom Italia this month to demand that the New York State Court freeze the accounts of the National Telecommunications Company (ENTEL) as part of a strategy of aggression against the government of Bolivia.

Lima, 15 May 2008 Meeting in Lima during the People's Social Summit Linking Alternatives 3, the organisations signed below, denounce the recent acts of aggression of(...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3369>

» Alternative financing for development: Venezuela and ALBA

by Alejandro Bendaña

If the goal is development — best defined as sovereign democratic social transformation — then we must not speak of making the present "aid" modalities more effective, but of substituting present day aid and the system in which it unfolds. One begins by questioning the very nature of the larger international financial architecture, what it stands for, and who benefits primarily from it.

"Development aid" as practiced by the North is part of a system that generates deepening inequality(...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3390>

Europe

» Regarding "The Return Directive"

by Evo Morales Ayma

Until the end of the Second World War, Europe was a continent of emigrants. Tens of millions of Europeans came to the Americas to colonize, escape hunger, financial crisis, wars, European totalitarianisms and the persecutions of ethnic minorities. Today, I am following with deep concern the approval process of the so-called "Return Directive". The text, validated on June the 5th by the Home Affairs Ministers of the 27 European Union countries, has to be voted on June 18th in the European (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3467>

» Appeal to MeP's: Reject The "Return" Directive

During the next plenary session in Strasbourg (16-19 June), members of the European Parliament are being asked to vote on the so-called "Return Directive". The text has already been adopted by EU Interior Ministers and includes an administrative detention period for irregular migrants of up to 18 months. This is a completely exaggerated measure which establishes the basis for the real criminalisation of migrants, who will be deprived of their freedom and detained in inhumane and (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3475>

Lebanon

» Against Sectarian Violence and Its Neoliberal Roots: A Call for a Citizen's Lebanon

by Attac Lebanon

Attac Lebanon's analysis of the current dramatic escalation of violence in the streets of Beirut

The violence in the streets of Beirut is the climax of verbal sniping and attacks that has been accumulated for the past 2 years even faster than the national debt. The source of these verbal volleys and the gun battles in the stress is found in all the sectarian leaders and politicians speeches, those same leaders who control the political and economic system of Lebanon.

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3361>

The CADTM delegation to UNDP for a consultation on debt

» Consultation on debt organised by UNDP

Here is the report of the CADTM delegation who participated to a consultation on debt organised by UNDP on 29th and 30th of May.

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3489>

Debt Campaign

» 6th bulletin of international campaign on illegitimate debt

Here is the 6th Bulletin of International Campaign on Illegitimate Debt.

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3329>

Famine, Poverty, Housing Crisis, Climate Change and Capitalism

» FAO: more free trade, more hunger

by Esther Vivas

The high level summit of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (the FAO) held in Rome on Food Security ended on June 5. The conclusions of the gathering do not indicate a change in the policy trends which have been in force these last years and which have led to the current situation. The declarations of good intentions made by various governments and the promises of millions of euros to end hunger in the world are not capable of ending the structural causes that have (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3474>

» "The Party is Over"; Origin and Causes of the Housing Crisis

by Esther Vivas

This paper's aim is to analyze the origins and causes of the housing crisis that began emerging in the U.S. economy in early 2007, becoming a grave financial crisis by August. In the second part, I will examine the background to the crisis: the long 1990s boom, the 2000 NASDAQ crisis and the policies adopted to extricate the system from it. Section 3 presents a brief chronology of the housing crisis; in part 4, I will suggest some hypotheses for understanding it theoretically; and in section (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3469>

» Global Famine

by Michel Chossudovsky

Humanity is undergoing in the post-Cold War era an economic and social crisis of unprecedented scale leading to the rapid impoverishment of large sectors of the World population. National economies are collapsing, unemployment is rampant. Local level famines have erupted in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and parts of Latin America. This "globalization of poverty" —which has largely reversed the achievements of post-war decolonization— was initiated in the Third World coinciding with the(...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3404>

» Poverty and Development

by Nicolás ANGULO SÁNCHEZ

There is a narrow and reciprocal relation between the reduction of poverty, development and human rights, because human development consists in the fulfillment of human rights and therefore, in the progressive reduction of poverty. Human development must be centered in the populations and the people who forms them, and its objectives are the improvement of their well being and respect for their dignity and

identity. Therefore, to the extent that poverty supposes the antithesis of social(...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3396>

» From false to real solutions for climate change

by Patrick Bond

Amidst her welcome critique of the biofuel mania, Vandana Shiva's ZNet commentary (December 13, 2007) also made this point: "The Kyoto Protocol totally avoided the material challenge of stopping activities that lead to higher emissions and the political challenge of regulation of the polluters and making the polluters pay in accordance with principles adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio. Instead, Kyoto put in place the mechanism of emissions trading which in effect rewarded the polluters by(...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3391>

» Capitalism in an Apocalyptic Mood

by Walden Bello

An apocalyptic mood has seized the highest levels of global capital as the global financial system continues to implode. This implosion is but the latest financial crisis to wrack global capitalism. Financial crises are inevitable since capitalist growth has increasingly been driven by speculative bubbles such as the housing bubble in the United States. The increasingly uncontrolled financial gyrations stem from the increasing divergence between an expansive financial economy and a stagnant(...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3389>

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