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**Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt**

[www.cadt-m.org](http://www.cadt-m.org)

## Newsletter Number 35 - Sunday, 20, June 2010

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## SUMMARY

### Against the dictatorship of creditors and financial markets!



#### » Call for a European mobilisation against credit dictatorship

by CADTM

Protests have been taking place regularly for months in Greece to express opposition to the austerity plan the Greek government, European leaders, and the International Monetary Fund decided to impose on the Greek people. Today, the leadership of this country is no longer in the hands of its elected officials, but has been placed under the authority of the IMF and European institutions, which means an absence of any democratic control. Several general strikes have already taken place since the beginning of 2010 (...) [\[Read more\]](#)

#### » The market : the new faith

by Éric Toussaint

Practically all political leaders - whether from the traditional Left or the Right, from the North or the South - have a quasi-religious faith in the market, especially the financial markets. Or rather, they themselves are the high priests of this religion. Every day in every country, anyone with a television or an Internet connection can attend mass and worship the market-god - in the form of stock exchange and financial market reports. The market-god sends his messages through television (...) [\[Read more\]](#)

#### » Tragedy, popular explosion, repression, IMF: Greece into the darkness

by Yannis Almanis

On May 5 the biggest workers' demonstration since 1976 took place in Athens. All the avenues of the city center were flooded by hundreds of thousands of workers who were protesting against the IMF-EU-Greek government austerity plan. It is impossible to make an accurate calculation of the crowd's number. There are estimations which start from 150.000 and end up to 500.000 people. No matter the exact number of the protesters, there is no doubt that this was an unbelievable show of the (...) [\[Read more\]](#)

#### » Solidarity with the Greek people against financial markets

by WSF International Council

The financial markets have been targeting Greece for several months. In order to "reassure the markets" and "restore trust", the European Union and the IMF have imposed a drastic austerity "cure" on the Greek people. Retirement age will be postponed to 67 years and pensions will freeze. Public sector wages will be

reduced by 15% and layoffs in the private sector will be made easier. The value added tax (VAT) will rise from 19 to 21%. Other measures of this kind are planned. This austerity plan (...) [\[Read more\]](#)

#### Press release

##### » **Support to the Greek people's resistance against the dictatorship of creditors !**

by CADTM international

The new austerity plan released on Sunday 2 May is a disaster for the Greek population: for workers in the private as well as the public sector, retired people, or the unemployed, i.e. those deprived of a job. Here are some of the measures it involves: Freezing of wages and retirement pensions in the public sector for five years; Suppression of the equivalent of two months of wages for civil servants; The main VAT rate has moved up to 23 % after 19 and 21%; The other VAT rates (...) [\[Read more\]](#)

#### Women

##### » **Women of Europe, rise up!**

by CADTM

We, the women gathered at the CADTM seminar "From the North to the South of our Planet: Keys for Understanding Public Debt" held on 22, 23 and 24 May 2010 in Belgium, protest against the austerity measures imposed on Greeks by their government, the IMF, and the European Union, supposedly to offset the Greek public debt. These measures represent a historical, and only yesterday, unthinkable turning point in contemporary European history: they ruin the social rights and benefits of millions of (...) [\[Read more\]](#)

#### Venezuela

Series: Bolivarian Venezuela at the crossroads

##### » **Venezuela. Nationalization, workers' control: achievements and limitations (PART 1)**

by Éric Toussaint

The economic, social and political situation in Venezuela has changed a lot since the failure of the constitutional reform in December 2007, which acted as a warning to the Chávez government. [1] This failure had the effect however of reviving the debate on the need to have a socialist perspective. The debate revolves around several key questions: further nationalization, workers' control, the place of the PSUV (United Socialist Party of Venezuela), people's participation, etc. On Sunday 15 (...) [\[Read more\]](#)

Series: Bolivarian Venezuela at the crossroads

##### » **Debate and contradiction in the PSUV (United Socialist Party of Venezuela) (Part 2)**

by Éric Toussaint

Debate and contradiction in the PSUV (United Socialist Party of Venezuela) (Part 2) [1] During the 2007 constitutional referendum, one might have thought that the party created by Hugo Chávez in 2006 was stillborn since fewer people voted 'Yes' than the number of people officially enrolled in the party. [2] But this impression was partially belied in the following months: grassroots meetings multiplied, which resulted in the nomination of candidates for the municipal elections and for (...) [\[Read more\]](#)

#### Brazil

##### » **Parliamentary Inquiry Commission (CPI) of the Public Debt in Brazil: main achievements so far**

by by Maria Lucia Fattorelli, Rodrigo Vieira de Ávila, Auditoria Cidadã da Dívida

Brazil currently spends 36% of its federal budget on interest and repayments of its external and domestic debt, while social areas such as health receive less than 5%, and education less than 3%. This is also a reality in several countries of the South. Therefore, the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission (CPI) of the Public Debt in Brazil represents a great achievement of social movements in Brazil and also Latin America. In early 2008, the Member of Parliament (MP) Ivan Valente (PSOL / SP) (...) [\[Read more\]](#)

#### Social and Climate Justice

##### » **Climate Justice and Class Struggles after Cochabamba**

by Tord Bjork

There are three cardinal points for solving the climate change issue. The first is the balance between rural and urban class struggle. The second hope. The third is the work for constructing alternatives to the dominant development model in the countryside, in the city and in the world by safeguarding existing or

creating new ways of living well. 1. The balance of rural and urban class struggles Climate change is a political question were the issue of social justice is central. Without (...) [\[Read more\]](#)

### » From Copenhagen to Cochabamba: Walking We Ask Questions, 2.0?

by Tadzio Mueller

In this essay Tadzio Mueller (Political scientist and contributing editor of *Turbulence*) reviews the outcomes of both the Copenhagen and Cochabamba conferences, addressing the political and organisational space these differing 'climate focused' events open for the social movements for Climate Justice. The Run-Up Copenhagen, Denmark, December 2009. The climate summit's failure manages to underwhelm even the already low expectations of the emerging global climate justice movement. Once it (...) [\[Read more\]](#)

### » Message from Latinamerican organizations on Klimaforum10

by Nicola Bullard

Perhaps without fully realising either the meaning or the implications, progressive movements have gravitated around the slogan of "climate debt" as a way into the complex world of climate negotiations. It is easy to understand why: debt is simple concept and in a just world, debts should be paid. But — more than that — the notion of climate debt goes to the heart of climate change politics. It raises the central question of historical responsibility and who owes whom for what. And by (...) [\[Read more\]](#)

### » Climate debt as a subversive political strategy

by Nicola Bullard The Hemispheric Social Alliance, Jubilee South/Americas, CLOC-Via Campesina, Friends of the Earth (Latin America and the Caribbean), REBRIP, COMPA, Jubilee South/Americas, Andean Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations (CAOI), Brazilian Network for the Integration of Peoples, the World March of Women and the Mexican Network against Free Trade and CADTM Abya Yala are committed to work together in the construction of a process of joint mobilization around the problem of climate change, its (...) [\[Read more\]](#)

## In Memoriam Denise Comanne

### » A vibrant internationalist, feminist and revolutionary voice has fallen silent: Denise Comanne (1949-2010)

A feminist actively involved in the local and international struggles against capitalism, racism and the patriarchal system, Denise Comanne created CADTM together with Eric Toussaint and other activists almost exactly 20 years ago. On Friday 28 May 2010, in the late afternoon, Denise died suddenly following a heart attack in a Brussels street as she walked to the railway station to catch a train back to Liège after participating in a Forum on the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of DR Congo. During this activity in support of the Congolese people, she had again been outstanding for her impassioned speeches and infectious good humour. Denise's premature death leaves a huge void, but also leaves many who, having met and known her, have joined her battle against Third World Debt and all other forms of injustice and oppression.

A tireless revolutionary, political leader of the LCR (Revolutionary Communist League, the Belgian section of the Fourth International) for many years, and former trade union delegate of the FGTB (General Workers Federation of Belgium) in the city of Liège, Denise militated to her very last breath in the cause of social movements. During the 1980s she stood firm against police and legal repression in the combat of City of Liège workers against a series of structural adjustment plans designed to repay the public debt. She was held in police custody, her telephone was bugged and she was convicted of participating in strike action and street protest. This only strengthened her determination to fight for social justice and revolutionary change. For her, the combat of people in both North and South against the tyranny of creditors and the debt was one and the same. (...) [\[Read more\]](#)



## AGENDA

» **22-06 => 26-06 | Detroit, United States: US Social Forum**

The CADTM will propose various workshop. More information about CADTM participation: Myriam Bourgy, [myriam@cadtm.org](mailto:myriam@cadtm.org)

» **30-06 |Istanbul, Turkey : World March of Women European Regional Action**

» **1er-07 => 4-07 | Istanbul,Turkey : European Social forum**

The CADTM will propose various workshop. More information about CADTM participation: Eric De Ruest, [ericdr.medias@cadtm.org](mailto:ericdr.medias@cadtm.org).

» **11-08 => 15-08 | Asunción, Paraguay : Americas Social Forum**

The CADTM will propose various workshop. More information about CADTM participation: Daniel Munevar, [danielmunevar@cadtm.org](mailto:danielmunevar@cadtm.org)

[\[More information\]](#)

» **16-08 => 23-08 | Bogotá, Colombia. WMW Americas Regional Action: Meeting of Women against War and for Peace**

[\[More information\]](#)

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