End Corporate Rule: Global Struggles Against the IMF & World Bank

A Teach-In Tour on the Impact of -- and the Resistance to -- the IMF, World Bank, & Corporate Domination Across the USA & Canada – Sept. 6 – 24, 2002

Appearing in ANN ARBOR: Wednesday, September 18 from 6-8 pm @ Michigan League Vandenberg Rm. floor 2
http://www.umich.edu/~aamgj for more info.

Culminating in a Washington, DC Teach-In - Sept. 25-29, along with:
_ Public Debates _ Prayer Vigils _ Non-violent Direct Action
_ Film Festival _ Rallies & Marches _ Street Protests & More...

Educate! Organize! Mobilize!

Poor and working people around the world are under siege. And they are fighting for change: demanding work and livelihoods with dignity, they call for debt cancellation, an end to economic policies that put corporate profits before life and rights, access to basic services like safe water, education, health services, food security, environmental protection and conservation.

We are looking for organizations and coalitions interested in hosting the Teach-In Tour. We have commitments from colleagues from the Global South to visit cities across the United States and Canada between September 6 and 24, 2002. Each Teach-in Tour will feature two activists, who will speak at events of varying size. The Teach-In Tour will culminate in Washington, DC from September 25 -29, for the Mass Mobilization prior to and during the World Bank and IMF meetings.

To host a Teach-In Tour please contact us immediately - Shrayas Jatkar at organize@50years.org or call 202/IMF-BANK (463-2265) - include contact info. - name, address, email, and phone and fax numbers.

Impoverished people in our world are daily being sacrificed to economic and development policies that continue to fail in country and after country, but that succeed spectacularly in making profits for corporations and G7 countries. Throughout the Global South (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, the Caribbean, and former Soviet-bloc countries), Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) imposed by the World Bank and IMF have been disastrous to the health, education, food security, environment, livelihoods, and
general well-being of the people. As just one example, a study found that 72% of countries that participated in IMF programs between 1978 and 1995 saw an increase in unemployment.

The World Bank and the IMF continue to demand that poor countries make payments on unjust and illegitimate debts rather than cancel them to free up government funds for meeting essential social needs. The World Bank and the IMF have offered paltry debt relief that keeps poor countries dependent on the international financial institutions -- and deprived of resources for primary schooling, clean water, food security, and other crucial services.

The World Bank, the IMF, the WTO, and harmful trade agreements like the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), promote a form of globalization that gives corporations increasing control over the lives of ordinary citizens throughout the world. In the U.S., rampant corporate greed and corruption are finally being exposed by almost weekly scandals. People are making the connections to the socio-economic problems little spoken of during the “boom economy” of the last decade -- jobs with wages that can support a family have been steadily disappearing, the environment has been sold off to the highest bidders, the right to organize is continually eroded, and in the Global South workers face incredibly high rates of unemployment and increasingly abusive working conditions. The worldwide race to the bottom on wages, rights, environmental protection, and livelihoods with dignity has made it clear: corporate globalization does NOT work for poor and working people.

Those truly benefiting from corporate globalization are the multinational corporations and wealthy investors. Exploiting the desperation of workers in the Global South, multinational corporations based in North America, Europe, and Japan have abandoned workers in their countries and shifted operations to the developing world where they pay starvation wages and expose workers to hazardous working conditions - all the while reaping unprecedented profits.

The End Corporate Rule Teach-In Tour Culminates with a 3-Day Teach-in and Mass Mobilization in Washington, DC – September 25-27, 2002

During the joint Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF this September, thousands of people will converge in Washington, DC to demonstrate their commitment to the ever-growing Global Justice Movement. We will be calling for an end to the policies and practices of the IMF and World Bank that have caused widespread poverty, inequality, and suffering among the world's peoples and damage to the world's environment.

For more information on international debt, corporate rule, the destructive policies of the World Bank and the IMF, resistance to harmful projects and policies, and related issues, visit the following websites:

www.50years.org  www.globalexchange.org  www.twnside.org.sg (Third World Network)
www.jubileeusa.org  www.focusweb.org (Focus on the Global South)  www.brettonwoodsproject.org
www.econjustice.net
www.worldbankboycott.org

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