**FROM THE GROUND UP: Reclaiming OUR World at the Grassroots**


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coalition of Progressive Student & Community Groups from Ann Arbor Plans a Two-Week Convergence entitled **FROM THE GROUND UP: Reclaiming OUR World at the Grassroots**

ANN ARBOR CONVERGENCE SET TO PRECEDE INTERNATIONAL PROTESTS AGAINST THE WORLD BANK & IMF SEPT. 25-28

Activist Convergence Aims to Inspire Participants to Take Action on a Range of Diverse yet Interconnected Issues

Ann Arbor Mobilization for Global Justice (AAMGJ), an organization that has helped bring local activists to major protests against corporate globalization and organized local events relating to social and economic justice issues, is facilitating the coming together of activists from Ann Arbor and beyond for two weeks of discussion and action. These two weeks, entitled **FROM THE GROUND UP: Reclaiming OUR World at the Grassroots**, will kick-off with a solemn vigil on 9-11 calling for “remembrance, reconciliation & peace” and will culminate in participation en masse in major international demonstrations protesting the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

**FROM THE GROUND UP** will feature events hosted by a impressive range of groups including the Ann Arbor Ad Hoc Committee for Peace, the Sweetwater Alliance, the Inter-Cooperative Council, Detroit Summer, Citizens for the Political Resurrection of Detroit, the Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice, the Megiddo Project, Socially Conscious Interactive Theatre, the Radical Cheerleaders, the Program on Corporations, Law & Democracy, Students Organizing for Labor & Economic Equality, the Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom, 50 Years is Enough, the Association for India’s Development, Critical Mass, the Organic Consumer’s Association, the Neutral Zone, AAMGJ and others.

More press releases will be issued soon regarding specific events that will be hosted by the groups listed above.

Organizers for this convergence say that they did not have a specific agenda in mind when they began planning. After members of AAMGJ put out a call for other groups to get involved by organizing their own events, the convergence grew organically as many...
activist groups volunteered their participation. At this moment, this two-week convergence is set to host an abundant collection of over 30 discussions, actions and festivities.

Despite the lack of a pre-defined agenda and the participation of a diverse body of activists, organizers claim that FROM THE GROUND UP will speak as a coherent whole. Says Mike Medow, a member of AAMGJ and a student at the University of Michigan, “While events will range from discussion of the Israel/Palestine conflict to Maude Barlow speaking on the privatization and commodification of the world’s water supplies, I think that all of the issues covered in the course of these two weeks will be based in the common question of how we will struggle to reclaim democratic control over our world in an era of increased militarization, environmental degradation and economic instability.”

To view the ever-evolving schedule of events that will comprise FROM THE GROUND UP check out http://www.umich.edu/~aamgj/.