

GLOBAL RESISTANCE

Landless Reclamation, BBC, 03.26.02

Members of Brazil's Landless Workers Movement have begun occupying land owned by some of the countries most powerful elite. Just 20% of the population owns 90% of the land in Brazil, leaving a huge gap between the very rich and the very poor. Last weekend, the Landless Movement took over land around the home of Brazil's President. When 16 people were arrested for that action, the Landless Workers moved to the property of one of the President's closest business associates. They are demanding that the government seize land from the super wealthy and give workers with no land some of their own to farm. (photo: MST flag, Landless Workers Movement).



2 Million in Roma, www.indymedia.org, 03.23.02



Up to 2 million marched in Rome against the proposed abolition of Article 18 of their constitution, a labor law that prevents workers from being fired without valid reasons. The demonstration went ahead despite calls from the Berlusconi government to suspend it in the wake of the assassination of their Minister of Welfare. Although the "Red Brigades" were blamed for the killing,

many who participated in the march believed that it could be a government "set-up" aimed at weakening the "left".

Editor's note: 2 million people obviously didn't care about the politics behind the assassination. They seem to know a raw deal when they see it coming and act on it.

Back Off Bush, Reuters News Agency, 03.24.02

On March 24th George W. landed in the capital of El Salvador on his last stop of a three-country Latin America trip to promote "free trade". Bush met with the president on the 22nd anniversary of Archbishop Oscar Romero's assassination by a right-wing, School of the Americas graduate (Fort Benning, Georgia). He was "welcomed" by 15,000 demonstrators and was "protected" by more than 7,000 police. Police checkpoints restricted people from entering San Salvador from outlying provinces, so most likely the demonstrations would have been even larger without the official harassment. Bush was greeted in similar manner in Peru and Mexico.

Editor's Note: If you don't know about the School of the Americas, check it out! at www.soaw.org

Halting Ecocide, Resource Watch of the Americas, 03.10.02

Since February, indigenous Mapuche communities in Chile have been organizing protests geared at blocking a 225-ton transformer from reaching the site of hydroelectric dam construction project. Protests have continued for years, led primarily by seven families who have refused to sell their land to make way for construction. At 1am on March 5th, a group of more than 100 Mapuche residents from surrounding communities began blockading the Maya bridge so that the transformer could not cross. Military police arrived several hours later with air support from two helicopters. The police used tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons spraying a chemical substance to try to disperse the Mapuche protesters who fought back with rocks. Police finally managed to clear the road around 7pm, after arresting 55 people and injuring 26 others (5 of them seriously). 18 police agents were



Heavily armed soldiers guard the transformer.

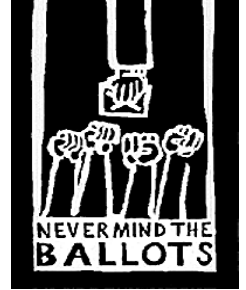
also injured.

On March 6, a group of 20 Mapuche occupied the provincial governor's office to protest the previous day's police operation. Special Forces agents evicted them from the building.

As of March 9, Mapuche's from outside the area (joined by the Council of All Lands) were marching to the area to join efforts to block the arrival of the transformer.

No More Politicians!, Resource Watch of the Americas (www.americas.org) and El Diario (La Paz, Bolivia), 03.14.02

Residents of two cities in Bolivia, Oruro and Potosi have spent weeks marching to demand the resignation of a nearby town's mayor and every member of the city council for corruption. Bolivia's politicians have long split their loyalty between drug lords and the US Embassy, sacrificing the Bolivian people to exploitation and violence for their own profit. Protestors blocked roads between the two towns and threw dynamite stolen from mining pits when the police arrived to arrest them. The police were forced to retreat and the Bolivian government sent in two high level negotiators. The mayor of the town in question resigned, as well as three of the five city councilors, but two remained in office. The protesters demanded that the remaining two resign and that the Bolivian government provide financial compensation for a youth whose hand was blown off handling dynamite at the protest. After the government refused those demands, the protesters took the negotiators hostage.



Clashes have also broken out between thousands of indigenous Bolivians and the police in the city of Copacabana. Thousands marched to protest "police agents and judges who protect confessed murderers." Some demonstrators threw rocks at the provincial police station and court building. Others took six police agents hostage, stripping them of their weapons and uniforms.

Resisting the Colonizer, A -Infos, 03.19.02

Members and elders of the Dene Suline indigenous nation in what's now called Alberta, Canada have occupied the office of their tribal government and called for the removal of the band's Chief. Last December the tribal government negotiated in secret with the Canadian government to sell off 4,500 square miles of Dene Suline land. Under the deal, each member of the indigenous nation would receive \$2,500 and their traditional land would continue to be used as part of the Primrose Lake Air Weapons range. The land was leased by force by the Canadian government in 1952, but that lease ended just before last year's secret renegotiations. Indigenous groups from around the region have traveled to occupy and reclaim the land. It has been used over the last 50 years as an oil field supplying \$40 billion worth of oil annually to outside oil companies and as a weapons range for testing weaponry like Depleted Uranium (DU). DU tipped missiles have been used in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan and leave a residue that remains radioactive for thousands of years.

To support their struggle: contact Dene Suline of Cold Lake Box 8497, Cold Lake, Dene Suline Territory "AB" T0M 1M2 (780) 812-0306 or (780) 639-4592

Kurdish Ruckus, A-Infos, 03.21.02

Hundreds of thousands of Kurdish youth put up barricades and battled police in towns throughout Turkey after authorities banned Kurds from celebrating their New Year. Two demonstrators were killed. Riot police used water canons, tear gas and tanks to disperse crowds. At least 40 police were injured and approximately 1,000 Kurds were arrested in the country. Authorities banned celebrations of Nowruz—the Farsi-language word for "new year"—saying that the festivities would be "exploited by outlawed groups to cause provocations."

Kurds have been battling the Turkish government for cultural rights, including the right to speak their native language, for years. The Turkish government has received millions of dollars of US military aid to brutally repress those movements in exchange for acting as an arm of US foreign policy in the Middle East.

Editor's Note: According to the Associated Press (02.21.02) more than 50% of the world's languages are currently threatened with extinction.



Join the April 20 International Day of Resistance!