



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR: Food, Water and Energy are not Commodities!

Newark, NJ - March 12th-14th, 2017

Letter in solidarity with the communities of Newark

March 17th, 2017.
Newark/New Jersey

We, grassroots, environmental, indigenous, human rights social movements, and trade union organizations, coming from 11 countries and participating in the “II International Seminar Food, Water are not commodities”, held from March 12th to 14th in Newark, United States; stand in solidarity with the Ironbound Community in Newark, on this March 14th, International Day of Action against dams, in defense of the rivers, water and life.

Today, populations around the world report the dangers that dams and river pollution cause to people's daily life. The owners of capital seek to alleviate the effects of the crisis, resuming their rates of profit and appropriating the value produced by all workers. This supposes the increase of predatory ventures in the rural context, as well as urban real estate speculation, affecting and evicting communities from both the countryside and the city.

We know that in the City of Newark residents are struggling intensely to reclaim the Passaic River, contaminated by several multinational companies that produce pesticides, electrical products and poisons, such as the orange agent produced for the war against Vietnam.

Although these companies are no longer present at the site, the contamination remains and the Lower Passaic River has been declared a Superfund and a National Priority Site for cleaning. However, the decontamination process is under attack due to cuts in the environmental and social monitoring sectors. In the current context this is occurring in several countries, where the poor are paying for the crisis of the rich.

Moreover, in Newark, communities living near the river suffer from the pressure of real estate speculation that drives them out of their living quarters, for which they have been battling for so many years.

At this juncture, we congratulate all the working communities of Newark, as we do in each of our countries, who are committed to organizing and fighting against transnational corporations, in defense of workers' rights, rivers, water and life.

On this day of struggle, we have come to express our international solidarity and our wishes for you to have many achievements, and for the struggle of all the workers around the world to be victorious!

Food, water and energy are not commodities!