

**FACTS ON BANK AND FUND POLICIES:**

**Education**

Bank and Fund programs mandate "user fees" – small charges for use of government services such as schools, clinics and drinking water. These charges amount to very little for the governments but can mean the difference between access to vital services and denial.

When Malawi eliminated user fees for education in 1994, primary enrollment soared by 50% almost overnight—from 1.9 to 2.9 million pupils.

When Uganda recently eliminated school fees, the primary school enrollment rate climbed from 50% to 90% (50 years is enough.) These programs particularly effect girls who are the first pulled from school when user fees are imposed.

Though public education is still free in the US a tiered education system is more than evident. Students from poor communities, the vast majority of whom are black or ethnic minorities, attend schools with very limited resources and schools in poor communities are quickly being privatized and sold to the highest bidder.

(CHECK [www.abolishthebank.org](http://www.abolishthebank.org)  
FOR CALLS TO ACTION AND UP-TO-DATE INFO ON:

Events, Housing, Maps, Outreach, Issues, News, A DC Guide,  
Legal, Medical, Solidarity Actions Across the Country & A  
Ride Board, and Links to Other Groups Organizing



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[www.abolishthebank.org](http://www.abolishthebank.org)  
OR CALL  
703-276-9768

# TAKE DIRECT ACTION AGAINST THE IMF AND WORLD BANK!

## THE ANTI-CAPITALIST CONVERGENCE

SEPTEMBER 24TH - OCTOBER 1ST, 2001

### WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE AND WHY?



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
The Anti-Capitalist Convergence  
[www.abolishthebank.org](http://www.abolishthebank.org)  
703-276-9768

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## ((CALENDAR (CONTINUED))

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2001: Trainings and orientation.**

**Actions surrounding local issues.**

**ACC General Meeting** 6pm (?).

**Welcome Center open** 9am -10pm.

**People's Summit: Globalizing Justice** Participatory Summit on Globalization and it's impacts on communities across the globe.

**Alliance for Responsible Trade Teach-In on the Free Trade Area of the Americas**, 10am-9pm, St. Stephen's Church, 1525 Newton St NW.

**FILM: "Life And Debt"** Opens at Visions Cinema  
Visions Cinema, 1927 Florida Ave., Washington, DC 20009, (202)667-0090.  
The closest metro stop is Dupont Circle - Q Street exit. We are located where 20th Street meets Florida Avenue between Connecticut and T streets.

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2001: Direct Action.**

**ACC Meeting at night**

**Welcome Center open** 9am -10pm.

**March to End US Military and Economic Intervention in Latin America**, starting at Upper Senate Park at 10:30 am and arriving at the White House at 2 pm.

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2001: Direct Action.**

**ACC Meeting at night**

**Welcome Center open** 9am -10pm.

**OCTOBER 1ST, 2001: Jail Solidarity Actions/March(?).**

**ACC General Meeting at night** - reports, updates, close out the week (?)

### **DONATE TO THE ANTI-CAPITALIST CONVERGENCE**

The Anti-Capitalist Convergence needs money! We are operating on a shoestring budget and every donation (however small) counts.  
Thanks for your support!

Online: <http://www.abolishthebank.org/en/donate.html>

Postal mail: send a check made out to "Anti-Capitalist Convergence" to: ACC c/o 2wrongs.net PO Box 15749 Washington, DC 20003 USA

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER DAYS OF ACTION, WASHINGTON, DC

(MORE TBA/THIS LIST SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGED TO BE IN TOWN NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH!

September 21 - September 24: **The People's Repo**, taking back our homes, taking back our communities... Days of action, action training and issue workshops. squat-conf@homesnotjails.org 202-737-6444 x24

[www.homesnotjails.org/dc/](http://www.homesnotjails.org/dc/)

**SEPTEMBER 24TH: ACC information and welcome center opens** 9am - 10pm

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2001: Trainings:** legal, medical, direct action and **orientation. Support Immigrant's Rights Lobbying Day and Rally**, starting in the morning with lobbying at the Capitol and moving into the rally at about noon.

**Welcome Center open** 9am - 10pm.

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2001: Trainings and orientation.**

**ACC General Meeting** 7pm.

**Welcome Center open** 9am - 10pm.

**Rally against CITIGROUP the world's largest and most destructive financial institution.** The Planet is Not for Sale! : Fighting Global Corporatization from the World Bank to Wall St. / Contact: Matt Smucker, Rainforest Action Network [smucker@globalizethis.org](mailto:smucker@globalizethis.org) 202-903-7257  
[www.ran.org/ran\\_campaigns/citigroup/](http://www.ran.org/ran_campaigns/citigroup/).

**People's Summit: Globalizing Justice** Participatory Summit on Globalization and it's impacts on communities across the globe.

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2001: Trainings and orientation.**

**Local issues workshop?**

**Welcome Center open** 9am - 10pm.

**Women's Torch Lit March**, meet at the park at 16th and Columbia, 9:30pm.

**People's Summit: Globalizing Justice** Participatory Summit on Globalization and it's impacts on communities across the globe.

# PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

(These are as adapted from CLAC and CASA's principles of unity. Two groups that organized for the FTAA protests in Quebec City.)

\*We are opposed to capitalism. We fundamentally reject a social and economic system based on the private ownership of the means of production and exchange. We reject a system driven by an exploitative logic that sees human beings as human capital, ecosystems as natural resources, and culture as simply a commodity. We reject the idea that the world is only valuable in terms of profit, competition and efficiency.

\*We reject the ideology of neo-liberalism, whereby corporations and investors are exempt from all political and social measures that interfere with their so-called "success".

\*We are anti-imperialist, opposed to patriarchy, and denounce all forms of exploitation and oppression. We assert a worldview based on the respect of our differences and the autonomy of groups, individuals and peoples. Our objective is to globalize our networks of resistance to corporate rule.

\*Respecting a diversity of tactics, we support the use of a variety of creative initiatives, ranging between popular education to direct action.

\*We are autonomous, decentralized and non-hierarchical. We encourage the involvement of anyone who accepts this statement of principles. We also encourage the participation of all individuals in working groups, in accord with their respective political affiliations.

\*We organize with a regard for security culture, keeping in mind the constant repression and infiltration of political movements by the state.

<http://www.abolishthebank.org>

# WHY PROTEST THE WORLD BANK AND IMF?

The Anti-capitalist Convergence is organizing against the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (Bank and Fund) because of their roles in enforcing and expanding global capitalism and imperialism.

Under the rubric of cutting government spending, Bank and Fund policies mandate reductions in social programs, such as transportation and health care, elimination of subsidies, like those that keep food affordable, and privatizing national industries such as electricity or water services. These policies put and keep people in developing countries in poverty. Women in particular are affected when social services are cut because they must find ways to provide health care, education and healthy food and water for their families.

In order to make countries "business friendly," the Bank and the Fund tell nations that they must keep their environmental, labor, and health and safety standards minimal. These lowered standards allow for a global race to the bottom. The global race to the bottom is caused by companies moving around the world, looking for the place where they can make the biggest profit by exploiting the environment and people.

The Bank and Fund promote export-oriented policies, which transfer money away from sustainable farming and production of goods and services needed by the society, in order to support the production of export crops such as flowers and luxury items (which can't be eaten!). Policies mandate the importation of cheap crops from agribusinesses (located primarily in the US) undermining local farming. In effect these policies force people - primarily people of color and indigenous people - to move from the rural to urban sectors, enabling corporations to take land and use natural resources. As sustainable farming is made unviable people are pushed into the wage economy where, because of their position in developing countries, their labor is undervalued and exploited.

This oppression and exploitation of people and the environment is a built-in part of the capitalist system which relies on global hierarchies of gender, race and nationality to keep those in power, in power. These hierarchies lead to increased wealth for those at the top at the expense of the lives of those at the bottom. Not only do these policies hurt people and the environment but THEY DO NOT WORK TO PROMOTE GROWTH. Rather than generate money for local economies these policies generate money for transnational corporations. Think about it! The Bank and Fund mandate that government funds be taken away from education, infrastructure and community and social development and instead put towards paying off old loans.

The loans which countries are paying off now are secondary loans. This means the loans were taken out to pay off previous loans because

The Anti-Capitalist Convergence supports a diversity of tactics and strategies toward the abolishment of the repressive capitalist system.

The Anti-Capitalist Convergence is calling for a large-scale mobilization to descend on Washington to disrupt the World Bank and IMF meetings in solidarity with revolutionary movements throughout the world. We envision a joyous festival of resistance that will bring these meetings to a halt.

## FACTS ON BANK AND FUND POLICIES:

### DEBT AND STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT

Following Structural Adjustment Programs in the last decades per capita income has plummeted in Africa, which has had the most rigorous programs, and has contributed to raising income inequality throughout the world.

In Sub-Saharan Africa the external debt burden has increased by nearly 400% since 1980, when the IMF and World Bank began imposing their "structural adjustment programs."

External debt per capita in sub-Saharan Africa (not including South Africa) is \$365, while GNP per capita is just \$308.

The external debt for the region (again excluding South Africa), at some \$203 billion in 1996, represents 313% of the annual value of its exports. Debt servicing for the region amounts to about 20% of its export income.

Forty-nine countries which have been following SAPs now have lower real per capita income than they did in the mid-1970s.

- From 50 Years is Enough website ([www.50years.org](http://www.50years.org))

Africa spends four times more on debt interest payments than on health care.

# WHY THE ANTI-CAPITALIST (CONVERGENCE?)

This fall, September 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>, World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials will be attending their annual meetings in Washington, DC. A number of groups are organizing large-scale demonstrations to show opposition to the flawed policies of these institutions. The Anti-Capitalist Convergence is organizing against the World Bank and IMF because of their roles in enforcing and expanding global capitalism and imperialism.

Members of the Anti-Capitalist Convergence have united to organize against the World Bank and IMF with the belief that the simple reform or even abolishment of these institutions is not sufficient. Rather, the Anti-Capitalist Convergence makes a systemic critique and advocates, protests and organizes against the capitalist system. The Anti-Capitalist Convergence recognizes the World Bank and IMF as primary institutions of global capitalism and imperialism. If the institutions were abolished today similar institutions would replace them leaving developing countries dependent on economically powerful countries.

The World Bank and IMF exemplify how capitalism promotes poverty, racism, sexism, environmental destruction, and social injustice in the name of "development." The oppression and exploitation of people and the environment is a built-in part of the capitalist system which relies on global hierarchies of gender, race and nationality to keep those in power, in power. These hierarchies lead to increased wealth for a brutal elite at the expense of the majority of people. The foundation of this system is the labor and blood of women and people of color.

Anti-capitalists fundamentally reject a social and economic system based on the private ownership of the means of production and exchange. We reject a system driven by an exploitative logic that sees human beings as human capital, ecosystems as natural resources, and culture as simply a commodity. We reject the idea that the world is only valuable in terms of profit, competition and efficiency.

In recognizing that capitalism is a global system the Anti-Capitalist Convergence is working against oppression and exploitation locally. In Washington, DC the Anti-Capitalist Convergence is supporting local communities fighting for health care, housing and other human needs.

The Anti-Capitalist Convergence is committed to organizing in a way that exemplifies the society we are working towards, which is autonomous, non-hierarchical and cooperative. Recognizing that capitalism is dependent on hierarchies and systems of domination, we actively oppose society's oppressions that are even evident within progressive organizing.

the policies did not produce growth the first time around. In fact, most countries have much more debt now than when they first accepted Bank and Fund "assistance." The backwards policies which the institutions enforce create a vicious cycle of dependence on them and by association on developed countries.

Through the undemocratic one dollar-one vote system the U.S., U.K., Japan, Germany, France, Canada, and Italy — the "Group of 7," hold over 40% of the power in these institutions, allowing them to dictate the policies of the Global South. These policies often directly contradict local laws and the express will of the public. This has led to massive protests and general strikes, which we hear little about in the US.

With their increasing power in the US political system, corporations are now pushing these policies on communities, in particular communities of color, in the United States. For decades the Bank and Fund have mandated the privatization of public health care in developing countries - this same push is now occurring in the US.

Here in Washington DC, the federally appointed control board privatized our only public hospital against the unanimous opposition of the elected City Council and general public. Not surprisingly, the primary backers of privatization in the US and in developing countries, are the same, the corporate controlled US federal government.

Members of the Anti-capitalist Convergence have united to organize against the Bank and Fund with the belief that the simple reform or even abolishment of these institutions is not sufficient. Rather, we are working to abolish the capitalist system. Though we have various alternative visions we see that the present system is driven by an exploitative logic that sees human beings as capital, ecosystems as resources, and culture as simply a commodity. We reject the idea that the world is only valuable in terms of profit, competition and efficiency. Within the varying visions for a new society, autonomy, non-hierarchical structures and cooperation are the ideal.

## **FACTS ON BANK AND FUND POLICIES: PRIVATIZATION**

Bolivia: In 1999, following World Bank advice, Bolivia granted a 40 year privatization lease to a subsidiary of the Bechtel Corporation, based in San Francisco, giving it control over the water on which more than half a million people survive. Immediately the company doubled and tripled water rates for some of South America's poorest families. The people regained control of their water supply only after massive protests and general strikes.

In the US there is a huge push towards privatization. This is particularly evident in health care, which not even considered a human right in the US.

## ARTS AND ACTION!

BE PART OF A MASS CREATIVE ACTION TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES OF GLOBALIZATION!

We are organizing to engage the public, raise awareness and provide accessible information about the impacts of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and generally, globalization.

### What you can do:

- Organize! Tell everyone you know to put up, perform, etc. ANY FORM OF ART around the days of the meetings/protests in DC.
- On your way to DC place ART publicly at rest stops, corporate businesses (gas stations, restaurants, etc.), on the sides of highways, in small, medium and large towns...
- Get in touch with the organizers of this action to see how you can help with a mass art takeover on days of protest in DC (see below for details)

### Ideas for Art Include, But Certainly Are Not Limited to:

Large Poster Wheat Pasting (see organizers for recipe!), Graffiti Artwork, Street Theater Performances, Musical Performers, Wood Block Artwork attached to sign posts, Sculpture, Banners, Markered poetry or prose, Stickers...

(CONTACT US @

[arts@abolishthebank.org](mailto:arts@abolishthebank.org) OR [projectarts@hushmail.com](mailto:projectarts@hushmail.com)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ARTISTIC ACTIONS AROUND THE DAYS OF PROTEST/HOW GET INVOLVED!

## WHAT LEGAL AID WILL BE AVAILABLE TO YOU?

The fall action legal team is composed of a variety of organizations. The Just Cause Law Collective (headed by Katya Komisurak from California) plans to staff a phone bank during the actions, and to help facilitate court and jail solidarity. The call in center's phone number will be announced during the week of actions.

The Partnership for Civil Justice is working on Constitutional rights issues including those related to harassment and stops and searches from the police, police misconduct during the actions, postering, and protection of meeting spaces from raids, as well as permits/access to public space. Feel free to contact them at 202/530-5630, [legal@JusticeOnline.org](mailto:legal@JusticeOnline.org) if you have been subjected to police harassment, brutality or have concerns related to any of the above.

The DC chapter of the National Lawyers Guild is coordinating with criminal defense attorneys, immigration law attorneys, and members of the National Conference of Black Lawyers to provide a broad range of support before, during, and after the actions.

Members of the local DC Justice and Solidarity Collective will be working with the NLG, on the streets as legal observers, and with other groups to organize post-action solidarity.

For legal advice or questions, contact the Partnership @ (202) 530-5630.

For more information, email [legal@abolishthebank.org](mailto:legal@abolishthebank.org).