

***Our colleague Jelena Milovanović participated at this year European Social Forum held in London from 14th till 18th October. We have spoken with Jelena about topics, participants and her impressions from this year meeting.***

*Who were the participants?*

After Florins and Paris, this year forum gathered a great number of activists, representatives of NGO's, organizations for human rights, anti-war campaigns, syndicates, environmentalists as well as the representatives of political parties gathered around the idea "Different world is possible".

*What were the main topics at this year gathering?*

Before all war and peace (occupation of Iraq, problem of Palestina, imperialism of America); democracy and human rights (democratic and social Europe, problems with immigrants "without papers but not without rights"); social justice and solidarity (privatization, women's rights); globalization (struggle with inequality and building of social and economic alternatives to neoliberalism); corporative globalization and global justice (European and World economy: WTO and equal trade, G8, World Bank, IMF); against racism, discriminations and extreme right wings (refuges, rights of immigrants-against fortress of Europe); environmental issues and sustainable development.

At **European Social Forum** one of the main speakers was *Aleida Guevara* (father - Che), around 20.000 delegates from 70 countries chosen between 30 conferences, 150 seminars and 220 workshops, as well as between numerous cultural programs all around London! It all culminated with protest walk of 70.000 demonstrates with main message "Bush Out, Troops Out", and whole event was moved from traditional November to October because of the election in America!

*What were the main recommendations and what was agreed for the future?*

Main recommendation from Paris last year was that certain ideas should be followed with appropriate actions. This year ESF was finished with appeal to all social movements in Europe for achieving different kind of globalization (alter globalization) based on international cooperation human development and social justice specially problems of racism, war conflicts, climatic changes and genetic modified food. International days of action were agreed on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December, on anniversary of adoption UN Declaration of Human Rights. Let me remind you ESF is a part of global movements that exists in all continents. It was initiated 3 years ago at the World Social Forum in Brazil (Porto Allegro), this year Forum was held in Bombay. Next ESF was planned for spring 2006. in our neighborhood - Greece. Question that remains after this year Forum is Balkans which will probably be underlined at next Forum as one of the most sensitive question in Europe. Leading intellectuals of new movement criticize corporative economies, undermining of state, rise of racism and environmental problems which requires reforms starting from state and its new role and political parties.

*What distinguish this year Forum from previous?*

Interesting is that for the first time alternative European Social Forum was held called "Beyond ESF" which celebrated "self-organized cultures of resistance". Idea was borne last year in Paris and main reason for this rebellion was that ESF were financed from mayor of London (Ken Livingstone), political parties, important syndicate officials, NGO's, participations for conference...As we can see everyone has its own problems. We have to, as soon as possible, lead Serbia toward Europe and become a part of this struggle for better global tomorrow!