

Media Advisory 1

Week of Global Action against Debt and IFIs



Thousands of activists and debt campaigners from at least 297 national organizations and 24 regional & international formations in 60 countries across the globe will be participating in the Week of Global Action against Debt and the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) on October 14-21, 2007.

This Week of Global Action coincides with the 20th death anniversary on October 15 of Thomas Sankara, former President of Burkina Faso who called for debt repudiation, World Food Day on October 16, World Youth Day on October 20 and the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the IMF and WB in Washington, USA on October 20-22, 2007.

The participating organizations and convenors of this week-long global activity are asserting that despite all the promises and schemes that have been offered by lending governments and international financial institutions (with the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative of the G8 & IMF-WB as the most recent), the debt problem continues to rob the peoples of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific of their livelihood & jobs, human rights to health, education, housing, water and other essential goods and basic services, independence and political autonomy, self-determination of their economic development, dignity and lives.



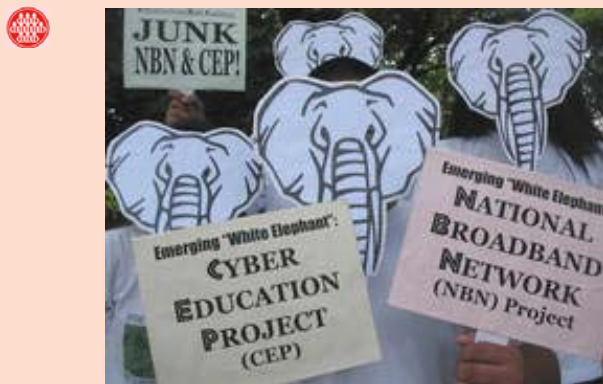
WHAT: Week of Global Action against Debt and IFIs

WHEN: October 14-21, 2007

Some of the highlights of this week-long global activity will be:

On **October 17 - International Day of Workers' Action vs Debt and IFIs**, labor movements, trade unions, and migrant workers groups in Asia/Pacific will hold simultaneous actions.

On **October 14 Tanzanian and African activists** and organizations will **honour Mwalimu Julius K Nyerere (1922-1999) with activities carrying the banner to campaign for the total cancellation of illegal debt and demand reparation.** Nyere led Tanzania to independence in 1961 and opposed IMF-WB conditionalities. He also urged the people of the South to repudiate illegal debts.



The **Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC)** together with various civil society organizations, people's organizations, and other progressive formations in the **Philippines** will be having a **seven-day-long event under the theme "Week of Action Against Illegitimate Debts, Unfair Trade and Worsening Poverty"**. The event kicks off on October 14 with a symbolic action where participants will run, walk, jog, bike, etc.

from the National Housing Administration building to the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman. The event will end on October 21 with a Human Chain against Poverty.

In the US, Jubilee campaigners will be rallying support for the Jubilee Act through a **40-day rolling nationwide Cancel the Debt Fast** which will start on **September 6 to October 15, 2007**. This will be led by Rev. David Duncombe, with a water-only fast in Washington, D.C. The fast will end during the Global Week of Action on Debt and the IFIs with a prayer breakfast, education/lobby training day. Joining the debt fast is **Argentine Nobel Peace Prize Awardee, Adolfo Perez Esquivel**.





On **October 20, Spanish activists** will hold a day of activities which include music, theatre, film screening and conferences and a popular march in downtown Barcelona, side-by-side with simultaneous actions in Catalan cities such as Tarragona, Manresa and Lleida. There will also be a **12 km popular race and a day of action on Illegitimate Debt, Debt in Africa and the Ecological Debt of Climate Change in Madrid under the "Who owes who?" Campaign.**



CADTM Belgium is organizing on October 19, and 20 2007, **a two-day seminar on the Audit of the Debt in the Belgian senate in Brussels.** The objective of this seminar is to deepen the discourse on the audit of the debt. The Seminar will feature representatives of 5 countries working on the audit: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Ecuador (with the participation of Ricardo Patino, Ecuadorean Minister in charge of the Audit), the Philippines, Brazil.



In **Central America**, organizations and activists linked to Jubilee South will hold **actions on the week-long activity around the issue of recognition of the Ecological Debt owed by Europe to the region** within the framework of the current political and trade negotiations in EU-CA. This demand will also be the central axis of the week-long activity.



Likewise in the **South Cone region**, networks and movements will raise **demands for audits, non-payment, and reparation of the illegitimate bilateral debts that involve Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina**, led by ubiquitous hand of the IFIs and predatory capital, and a huge social and ecological debt which continues to accumulate in the region.



In addition, the **Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) and the UN Millennium Campaign** will spearhead the **STAND UP and SPEAK OUT** against poverty and inequality on October 16th and 17. This coincides with the International Day for Eradication of Poverty.



(For more information and inquiries feel free to contact us at debtweek@gmail.com or log-on to www.debtweek.org)