

German internationalist grassroots network (Bundeskoordination Internationalismus BUKO) criticises NGO paper for G8 summit

BUKO office

Nernstweg 32-34

D-22765 Hamburg

fon: +49-(0)40-393 156

fax: +49-(0)40-28055122

mail@buko.info

TO THE INTERNATIONAL NGO COMMUNITY, ACTIVISTS IN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND THE MEDIA

In a recently published position paper, the Bundeskoordination Internationalismus (BUKO), a grassroots network of about 140 internationalist groups and organisation in Germany, sharply criticises the approach of major German NGOs to come forward with demands directed towards the G8 for their summit in June 2007 in Heiligendamm/Germany. In April 2007, about 40 German NGOs had presented their demands on all of the major issues of the upcoming G8 summit in the German town Heiligendamm and several other issues. The demands were related, among other, to climate change, investment policy, intellectual property, Africa and biodiversity.

BUKO criticises that directing demands towards the G8, bestows upon the G8 legitimacy so solve the world's problem. "Necessary radical social transformations cannot only be achieved by 'good arguments'", BUKO argues. "The NGO document implies that governments could and should be convinced to change the world for the better. Governments and the G8 are thus seen as part of the solution rather than as part of the problem. The political and economical structures of the world order, which are enforced and secured by the governments are not mentioned in the document."

The paper is essentially a step backwards and breaks with a consensus that had previously existed in the context of the anti-G8 mobilisations, BUKO submits. "The central element is to delegitimise the G8 instead of addressing demands to them."

"We will not be going to Heiligendamm to demand promises from the G8 which we would have to remind them of in two years. These demands would be counter-productive and the planned protests would be undermined by such diluted demands.", is the conclusion of the paper.

The BUKO position paper has been widely acknowledged and well received among the networks and individuals involved in the mobilisation against the upcoming summit in Heiligendamm.

For more information, please contact the BUKO office.

A short version of the BUKO position paper in English is attached to this email and available at <http://www.buko.info/>

We welcome further circulation.

A longer version is currently available only in German at www.buko.info.

The NGO position paper may be found at

http://www.forum-ue.de/fileadmin/userupload/positionsapriere/g8_ngo_policypaper.pdf.