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G8/Ireland

MEPs Send Message of solidarity to Anti-G8 protestors

- News from around the world -

Publication date: Tuesday 11 June 2013

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A group of 12 MEPs from the left wing group in the European Parliament, GUE-NGL, have signed a joint message of support to Anti-G8 protestors ahead of the summit in two weeks' time. The message which is signed by MEPS from Denmark, Greece, Germany, Portugal, Spain and Sweden was initiated by the Irish Socialist Party MEP, Paul Murphy.

We the undersigned, left-wing Members of the European Parliament (members of GUE/NGL) would like to extend our solidarity to those campaigning and protesting against the G8 in Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, including the events organised by the trade union movement and the 'G8 Not Welcome' campaign.

The G8 leaders represent the interest of the super-rich and are made up of right wing governments which are attacking the living standards of ordinary people. They are determined to make ordinary people pay for a crisis which they did not create in order to fund the bail-out of the bankers and speculators. Their austerity agenda is killing the economy and has created mass unemployment across the globe, especially amongst young people. While the super-rich continue to get richer, billions of people on our planet subsist on less than \$2 a day.

These protests continue a long history of protest and resistance against the G8's capitalist agenda. Not since its 2001 meeting in Genoa, which saw 200,000 protestors take to the streets and the police's killing of Carlo Giuliani has the G8 dared to meet in an area accessible to protestors. Nevertheless, however remote a location they choose, they are still met by protestors opposed to austerity, war and environmental destruction.

The visit of the G8 to local communities across the world has provided no long term economic benefit to those communities and has turned these local areas into militarised zones in the run up to these summits, causing huge disruption to the lives of ordinary people. Their visit to Fermanagh seems to be no different, with thousands of police officers and army being brought into the area. Water cannons are on stand-by, together with make shift prisons for protestors and the purchasing of drone spy-planes, which has been authorised by the local Policing Board.

We oppose the conscious attempt by the police, right wing politicians and the media to intimidate people from exercising their right to protest against the G8 and to smear the campaign by labelling those who oppose the G8 as violent thugs. Those involved in violence will be inside the G8 summit!

We hope the protests both in Belfast and Fermanagh are a success and play a role in strengthening the fight against austerity and war both in Ireland and across the world.

Yours in Solidarity,

Paul Murphy MEP, Ireland

Nikolaos Chountis MEP, Greece

Cornelia Ernst MEP, Germany

Mikael Gustafsson MEP, Sweden

MEPs Send Message of solidarity to Anti-G8 protestors

Sabine Lösing MEP, Germany

Marisa Matias MEP, Portugal

Willy Meyer MEP, Spain

Helmut Scholz MEP, Germany

Søren Søndergaard MEP, Denmark

Alda Sousa MEP, Portugal

Sabine Wils MEP, Germany

Inês Zuber MEP, Portugal