

# PROGRAMME FOR THE CONFERENCE RESISTANCE & ALTERNATIVES

17th of March · Sigurdsgade 26, 2200 København N

This is not the final program for the conference "Resistance & Alternatives", which will be hosted by Afrika Kontakt om March 17th 2019. A few sections of the programme still needs to be finalised, and we are working on doing so as soon as possible. Therefore, there may be some changes in the programme – but the general information such as time, location and themes are all final. We hope that you will save the date in your calendar, and sign-up yourself and your colleagues for the conference already now.

## PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

Time	Activity
08:30 - 09:00	Breakfast and registration
09:00 - 09:15	Introductory speech by Mads Barbesgaard
09:15 - 09:35	First presentation by Mariana Gomez
09:35 - 09:55	Second presentation by Ashok Subron
09:55 - 10:15	Third presentation by Samir Eskanda
10:15 - 10:30	Physical activity/bathroom breaks
10:30 - 12:15	First session of workshops
12:15 - 13:15	Lunch
13:15 - 13:35	Fourth presentation by Naziha El Khalidi
13:35 - 13:55	Fifth presentation by Judy Pasimio
13:55 - 14:15	Sixth presentation (TBA)
14:15 - 14:30	Physical activity/bathroom breaks
14:30 - 16:15	Second session of workshops
16:15 - 16:45	Afternoon tea
16:45 - 17:30	Conclusions

## PRESENTATION OF SPEAKERS

### ASHOK SUBRON

#### **PROGRAM COORDINATOR, CARES MAURITIUS**

Activist since the 70's in Left politics. Co-Founder in 2005, and Spokesperson of Rezistans ek Alternativ - Red-Green Eco-Socialist - political movement of Mauritius, known for articulating labour, social and ecological struggles and the 'de-ethnicisation' of politics in Mauritius. Well known trade unionist, active in General Workers Federation, and at international level, as ILO Consultant for Trade Union Education. Active in the last 7 years in anti-Ocean Grabbing and Beach grabbing movement, as well as the campaign for renewable solar energy - power shift. Presently, Programme Coordinator of the Center Alternative Research and Studies (CARES), responsible of the Annual Indian Ocean and Southern Africa International School of Ecology. Was Awarded Most Outstanding Mauritian of the Year title in 2012-2013 by various mainstream media of the country - as well as arrested several times by police in relation to activism!

### JUDY PASIMIO

#### **COORDINATOR, LILAK – PURPLE ACTION FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

Judith Pamela A. Pasimio is a women's and human rights advocate from the Philippines. She works as the coordinator of LILAK (Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights), an organisation whose goal is to provide different spaces and platforms for rural and indigenous women to think and talk; to further their rights and to profile their voices, actions, struggles and visions at national and international level. Judy has fought for years, for land rights, women's access to natural resources, the right to self-determination and indigenous rights. She has worked to organise regional gatherings for indigenous women, to embolden them to have policy dialogues in the provinces. LILAK works to disseminate knowledge of laws, legislation and human rights in ways that indigenous people understand - something which exploiting corporations makes sure to make as inaccessible and hard to understand as possible. In an interview with Women's Advancement Deeply, Judy said of her and LILAK's work: "It's really assertion of your rights. Assertion of your right to say no. A lot of communities don't realize that they actually can say no. That's one of the first things we really need to impress upon people – that you have the right to say no."

### MARIANA GOMEZ

#### **COORDINATOR, YES TO LIFE, NO TO MINING LATIN AMERICA**

Mariana Gomez Soto is an anthropologist and activist from Colombia. Mariana grew up in Doima, Colombia, which lies in an area rich in water and crops. Marianas activism started with the fight against Anglo Gold Ashanti, who planned to build tailings dam in Doima and process ore from a nearby goldmine, despite the communities vocal rejection of these plans. The resistance in the community began in 2012 and has since lead to a local referendum and a large movement. This has been successful in keeping Anglo Gold Ashanti from the area, despite the Colombian government being decidedly pro-mining.

Since this, Mariana has been engaged in activism and has been involved in organising popular consultations across Colombia.

Mariana is an advocate for the many sustainable alternatives to mining and extractivism, by creating and strengthening eco-tourism, local food production and the like. She now works as the coordinator for Latin America for the Yes To Life, No To Mining Network, where she works to support and connect grass-roots movements in defence of territory. A recent huge success for the network has been the result of a 10-year nonviolent campaign against Anglo Gold Ashanti in the town Cajamarca. In a referendum in 2017, 97,9% of the majority voted against a colossal goal

mine. Mariana has been involved in the work of building alternatives rooted in the territory and its treasures: natural beauty and small-scale agriculture.

#### **NAZIHA EL KHALIDI**

#### **MEDIA ACTIVIST, FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF WESTERN SAHARA**

Naziha El Khalidi is a media activist, who was born and raised in El-Aaiún, a city in the occupied territory of Western Sahara.

In Western Sahara - the last colony of Africa, which has been occupied by Morocco since 1975 - independent journalism is not allowed by the occupiers. Naziha uses her work to document the violations of human rights that happen in the occupied territories. Here, Sahrawi demonstrators, are demanding their right to self-determination, are attacked by Moroccan forces - even though the Sahrawis rights to self determination is recognised in all UN resolutions. Documenting these demonstrations and attacks is a huge risk, and yet Naziha does it.

In August of 2016, Naziha was detained and held in custody by the Moroccan police force, after attending a protest and recording the attacks by Moroccan police towards the Sahrawi protestors. She was violently abused and questioned at the Moroccan police headquarters in El-Aaiún, with the hopes to threaten her into stopping her media activism - but unsuccessfully.

Naziha continues to fight Sahrawi independence, as she works to let the public know what the Moroccan government hopes to cover up

#### **SAMIR ESKANDA**

#### **ACTIVIST AND MUSICIAN, THE BOYCOTT, DISVESTMENT, SANCTIONS CAMPAIGN**

Samir Eskanda is a British Palestinian musician, and an activist in the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Campaign. The purpose of the BDS campaign is to support the Palestinian struggle for freedom and justice, through pressuring Western governments to take a stance and impose sanctions as a consequence of the Israeli States colonisation, illegal settlement and military aggression.

Samir has made a case for the boycott of a number of world-renowned musicians who have performed in Tel-Aviv, Israel or similarly shown support for the Israeli state, whose occupation forces violently and consistently assaults the people of the besieged Gaza strip. In a piece written for "The Quietus", Samir argues that "Israel deliberately undermines Palestinian cultural expression while marketing its own cultural output worldwide, thus attempting to cast a veil over its violations of human rights and international law (...) Perhaps the most important reason to boycott is because the call itself comes from Palestinian civil society, not political or religious factions, but from federations of unions and other organisations representing ordinary people from virtually every walk of life, including teachers, farmers, writers, students, dentists, filmmakers, engineers, dancers, journalists, professors and musicians. It is the broadest possible expression of the will of a civilian population, based on universal principles of human rights, in the attempt to end decades of occupation, colonisation and structural discrimination."

#### **THE LAST SPEAKER WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON**

## WORKSHOPS

Throughout the day, we will have to sessions of workshops. The goal of these workshops is to create a space to meet across organisations, struggles and movement's, to co-create solutions to a series of problematics. It is our hope that all participants will contribute to the dialogue and in this way help us in creating nuanced perspectives and constructive solutions.

Each workshop will be facilitated by 2-3 co-facilitators, all of whom come from relevant organisations or have experience with the theme of the workshop. The facilitators will help start the dialogue, through a short presentation on for example a specific case, experience or professional knowledge.

We have not yet found all of the facilitators, but these will be described in the final programme.

## HOW TO SIGN UP FOR WORKSHOPS

When you sign up for the conference, you will have to pick your top three priorities for each of the two sessions of workshops. You refer to these by the number stated by each workshop above.

Afrika Kontakt will do our best to meet all participants priorities. When you register at the day of the conference, you will receive a list of the final participants in each workshop.

## DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOPS

### FIRST SESSION OF WORKSHOPS – BEFORE LUNCH

#### **1. DISPOSSESSION OF LAND, SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE LIVING UNDER OCCUPATION, AND MINORITIES LIVING INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.**

Both Western Sahara and Palestine range amongst the least free countries or territories of the world in Freedom House's 2019 Freedom in the World Report. With respective scores of 4 and 11 out of 100 point on a rating that considers factors like civil and political rights, it underlines the dire need to address the violations towards these occupied territories. Both Palestinian and Sahrawi people's have been violated, tortured, oppressed and killed under horrendous circumstances, both inside and outside the occupied territories.

In this workshop we wish to foster a discussion on the extremely challenging question of how we can work towards positive changes for peoples living under occupation, and minorities living inside- or outside the occupied territories.

#### **2. THE SHRINKING SPACE OF CIVIL SOCIETY GLOBALLY. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ACTIVIST IN VERY REPRESSIVE ENVIRONMENTS? HOW DO WE PUSH BACK, WHILE STAYING SAFE?**

The number of violations against civil rights is ever on the rise, and abuses are extending to all types of activists, resisters, journalists and anyone else challenging and speaking truth to power. At the same time legislation is changing in many countries to further restrict the rights to freedom of association, assembly and expression. Governments are pushing back citizen engagement, and creating a space for the legalisation of massive abuses, both in terms of violence and oppression. As a result, it is becoming increasingly dangerous to be an activist in many parts of the world. In this workshop we will discuss what it means to be an activist in repressive governments and environments, and try to create solutions on how to keep the resistance alive while staying safe.

### **3. THE FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS. FOCUS ON RESISTANCE, ALTERNATIVES AND BETTER UTILISATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.**

Transnational Corporations (TNCs) exert a great deal of power in the globalized world economy. Many corporations are richer and more powerful than the states that seek to regulate them. In this workshop, we will explore how TNC's dominate the global economy and exert their influence over national and international policy making, and discuss Denmark's role in - and influence on this. We will also discuss the perspectives that arise with the UN Binding Treaty to stop corporate impunity. The workshop will be held by Mariana from "Yes To Life – No To Mining", an association that takes action against the devastating impact of the extractives industries, and members of the "Right2SayNo" working group from Afrika Kontakt.

### **5. ANTI-RACISM IN THE INCREASINGLY XENOPHOBIC AND NATIONALIST DEVELOPMENT OF DENMARK AND AROUND THE WORLD**

Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines, Geert Wilders in the Netherlands, the Front National in France or the Dansk Folkeparti in Denmark. Right-wing authoritarian leaders and right-wing parties are becoming increasingly influential in many countries. We are witnessing how shifts in discourses towards the extreme right is shifting the terms of the debate allowing for discussions and opinions formerly unacceptable to be accepted in the mainstream public debate. Also outside of party politics, a movement of inhumane racism and xenophobia is shaping the systemic oppression of societies. In the workshop, we want to explore which narratives and practices around racism and xenophobia are dominating, on which principles and assumptions they are built and how we can counter them.

### **7. INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS WORKING WITH TRADE UNIONS AND WORKER'S RIGHTS. HOW CAN UNIONS BE USED IN PROGRESSIVE FORMS OF ACTIVISM WORLDWIDE?**

As a consequence of corporate impunity and increasingly greater inequality across the globe,

### **4. THE ROLE OF NGO'S IN RELATION TO MARINE RESOURCES, IN DENMARK AND GLOBALLY: SHOULD THE MARTINE RESOURCES BE PRIVATIZED, OR SHOULD IT BE CONSERVATION? ARE THERE OTHER ALTERNATIVES?**

Fishing quotas is a topic that has its ups and downs in public and political debate. The issue of the privatisation of fish is often forgotten or ignored in public view, yet Denmark, Europe and the rest of the world are fighting over fishing quotas and rights to resources while simultaneously overfishing and depleting the oceans. Decision-makers, maritime professionals, the public and NGO's seem to disagree on many topics and levels, but the central question remains: Should maritime resources be privatised? And how do we secure a sustainable industry around these resources? The purpose of this workshop is to address these questions, to discuss the pros and cons of privatisation and to come up with alternatives - and how to involve and mobilise people in this work.

### **6. BUILDING A GENUINE CLIMATE-LABOR ALLIANCE**

Climate and environmental concerns are often framed as antagonistic to those of workers - particularly those employed in extractive industries. So far, the climate- and environmental justice movement has been inadequate at building ties with labour movements globally as well as in Denmark, while the labour movement historically has not been at the forefront on issues of climate and environment. Yet, inspiring attempts at forming alliances between the two show that it doesn't have to be this way and that both sides will only become stronger, if united. In the workshop, we want to explore where these two movements have commonalities, which differences exist and how labor unions and climate activist groups can effectively cooperate to stand up against the dictatorship of corporate power. With this workshop we will try to take preliminary steps towards a network between trade unions and the climate movement and groups.

violations toward workers are growing increasingly dire. There exists an already carved out space for activism on protecting human and labour rights in many countries, but is there a link to a greater solidarity movement? This workshop will look into how unions can be used in progressive ways of activism, and be used to create connections and networks in Denmark and globally. We will discuss how international organisations that work with trade unions and work together to strengthen the resistance and secure fair rights, wages and working conditions.

### **9. RESISTING AND OPPOSING FREE TRADE - AND HOW TO SET ANOTHER AGENDA.**

The current trade regime is a foundational part of neoliberal globalisation and the global inequality that it leads to. In the past years, the EU has amped up its trade strategy with a stream of new agreements being negotiated or in the process of ratification. While impressive campaigns have been mounted against some of these, swaying public opinion on them - particularly TTIP - so-called 'free' trade is still seen by most, especially in Denmark, as a good. Critique and opposition is often portrayed as a regressive nationalist position and increasingly associated with the likes of Trump. How do we address the myths attached to any opposition to free trade? In the workshop, we want to discuss the impacts of international trade and investment deals like CETA and TTIP and what an alternative trade policy might look like.

### **11. ART, CULTURE AND RESISTANCE. HOW CAN THIS BE USED AS ACTIVISM TO INFLUENCE, GARNER SUPPORT AND CREATE AWARENESS AND CONSOLIDATE MOVEMENTS?**

Art and culture has been used to resist oppressive forces for centuries. It has been used to protest, to give a voice to those who are consequently silenced, or to highlight the atrocities conducted against peoples which have been forgotten or swept under the rug by the perpetrators. The resistance in art takes a thousand forms and often reaches far and wide beyond what any other activist outlet can do. Therefore, we want to create a space to discuss how art and culture can be used as a force of activism to influence, garner support, create awareness and consolidate movements.

### **8. INDUSTRIALIZED AGRICULTURE DESTROYS PEOPLE, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE CLIMATE. WHERE IS THE ALTERNATIVE?**

How does our diet impact our environment? Have you considered, where the groceries you buy in the supermarket come from and what the impacts of the production of those have on humans and the environment? In this workshop, we want to get a closer look on the production chain of industrialized agriculture. We will use two cases to highlight examples of the different ways that the food industry takes away food sovereignty from the people: Industrialized pig farms and the rights to seeds. These are just two examples that will create the basis for a discussion of the many different issues within industrialized agriculture.

### **10. HIV AND HEALTH RIGHTS ACTIVISM IN LOCAL AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES.**

HIV-related stigma is a phenomenon that occurs both in Denmark and the Global South. People are not willing to reveal their HIV status, as it may have social, political and economic repercussions and impact their wellbeing. This is a fact both in Denmark and the Global South. Criminalization of people living with HIV is also a cross cutting issue across countries. This workshop will discuss these issues and their effect on activism, proactivity and healthy attitude towards education, destigmatisation and proper treatment and accessibility. How can the fight against stigma be strengthened in settings where people living with HIV experience stigma due to their status? We will address this question, and link the discussion to general activism regarding health rights in a local and global perspective.

**SECOND SESSION OF WORKSHOPS ON NEXT PAGE**

## SECOND SESSION OF WORKSHOPS – AFTER LUNCH

### **12. WESTERN SAHARA - HOW DO WE INFLUENCE RESOURCE GRABBING AND GARNER POLITICAL SUPPORT?**

Western Sahara has been occupied by Morocco since 1975 - it is the last colony of Africa, yet the dispossession of the Sahrawi people and plunder of their resources is not a widely discussed subject in public debate. The Moroccan government has built a concrete wall across the occupied country, to repress the Sahrawis and facilitate a plunder of their resources. Meanwhile the European Union has entered a number of fishery trade deals concerning the waters outside the Western Saharan coast. While the EU Court has ruled it a violation for Morocco to trade off resources from the occupied Western Sahara, there seems to be no political backing to enforce this ruling. How do we end the plunder of the Sahrawi resources, in a political climate where rulings of the EU supreme court is overlooked, and very few countries - including Denmark - seem to care?

### **14. WOMEN'S ROLE IN ACTIVISM AND RESISTANCE. IDENTIFYING VULNERABILITIES AND STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATION AND VISIBILITY.**

Women's activism has throughout centuries taken and continues to take many different forms. Any number of social and political struggles across the globe affects women, who are more often than not marginalized, underrepresented, unheard, and deprived of rights. Look to any subject of development, and women are considered a vulnerable group: In health work, women are subject to many more health risks and fare less competent care for gender related issues; In politics women are underrepresented, subject to discrimination and violence; in terms of rights to education, rights to own land, and many other basic human rights, women are continually deprived. Despite this, there is still a strong movement of women's activism across the globe, who fight against these inequalities. In the workshop we will identify vulnerabilities for women activists and discuss solutions on how to strengthen the women's participation and visibility in resistance locally and globally.

### **13. THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE - HOW TO MOBILIZE AND RESISTS WORLDWIDE, MAKING ACTIVISM EFFECTIVE "FAR FROM HOME", DUE DILIGENCE**

The Palestinian people are one of the most repressed in the world. Suffering from dispossession, occupation and numerable violations, killings and human rights abuses, the Palestinian struggle is as dire as ever. As a consequence of the sub-human living standards and treatment of the Palestinian people in their home country, migration has lead them all across the globe. But moving does not mean abandoning the struggle. This workshop will focus on how to mobilize in support of a struggle that is not going on in the residing country of the resisters. This is an issue not unique to Palestinian activists - it is an issue that is increasingly being faced by activists fighting for a cause that is deemed irrelevant because of it taking place far away. How to mobilize and organize in that context?

### **15. SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES TO EXTRACTIVISM. WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES, HOW DO WE MAKE A JUST TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, DEGROWTH.**

In the name of development and prosperity, transnational corporations in the extractive industries are exploiting people and plundering the planet. The winning argument of this neoliberal development seems to be that increased production will help everyone, from the poorest to the richest of society. Yet we consistently see the opposite happening: Extractive industries create greater division and inequality, through unsustainable endeavours that leave local communities dependent on exploiting corporations, while destroying their environment and ways of living.

## **16. THE FINANCE SECTOR AND THEIR BAD ETHICS - TAX EVASION, TAX HAVENS, FINANCIALISATION. HOW CAN WE FIGHT BACK, LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY?**

Every year transnational corporations transfer 5000 billion dollars out of the Global South through tax havens. Tax evasion is undermining socio-economic development in the countries the corporations operate in, making inequality greater and concentrating profits in fewer and fewer hands. This workshop will be hosted by Ashok from CARES Center for Alternative Research and Studies on Economic, Social and Environmental Issue, who is based in Mauritius - a key regional and global tax haven. The workshop will examine how we can fight back, locally and globally, against the tax-dodging transnational corporations.

## **18. LGBT+, ETHNIC OR RELIGIOUS AND OTHER MINORITIES - UNIONISING AND CREATING SAFE SPACES FOR ACTIVISM**

It is a terrible fact that minorities across the globe always have been the last to benefit from positive developments in the world. Whether it be the still very limited rights of LGBT+ people across the globe (even in so-called progressive parts of the world), to the lacking representation of ethnic and religious minorities in the Danish political debate and elsewhere. While struggling with constant under-representation and systemic oppression, activism can be both exhausting, difficult and dangerous to minority activists. Furthermore, the stages of development on these issues vary across a wide range, both from country to country, and from struggle to struggle. In this workshop, we want to discuss how we can unionise and support each other without disregarding the differences across the different struggles of many different types of minorities and sub-groups. We also want to work on actions and solutions on how we can strengthen activist endeavours and create safe spaces for resistance for groups of people who are especially vulnerable to suppression and violence.

## **17. PUSHING BACK ON INHUMANE POLICIES: HOW DO WE SUPPORT REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN DENMARK AND ACROSS THE GLOBE?**

The Danish government's immigration policies are becoming evermore divisive and oppressive. In this workshop, we will briefly look into Danish immigration policies and then explore, how to support new citizens, as well as refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers who have already been in Denmark for years. Together with migration practitioners, we will learn from what has and has not worked well in the past, assess successful and innovative programmes and talk about how to best replicate them in other cities/contexts.

## **19. CREATING A DANISH ELITE WATCH TO FIGHT BACK ON CORPORATE IMPUNITY**

Corporate Watch is a non-profit cooperative which is active in the field of investigative journalism. Members are investigating the elite, the companies and the systems that are destroying people and the planet through exploitative and oppressive practices. In the workshop, we will explore the possibility of creating an Elite Watch / Corporate Watch in Denmark: A place where we research on the global elite to reveal how the elite affects our decision-making processes. Who is the global elite, and how does it affect our political system? Identifying who we are up against is necessary knowledge for us to be able to fight back.

## **21. RADICALISM ON THE RISE WORLDWIDE. COMMON TRAITS AND DIFFERENCES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM AND RIGHT-WING POPULISM.**

There is no denying that several western countries are currently witnessing a populist moment. Neoliberalism's austerity and privatisation has created serious grievances for working people - particularly in the US and in a number of European countries. But so far this has mainly been exploited by the right-wing. Even though right-forces are on the rise, the



## **20. FOREIGN WORKERS - INCLUSION IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT: HOW DO WE WELCOME AND INCLUDE OUR NEW COLLEAGUES?**

In Denmark and across the EU, we see an increasing number of foreign workers that are being heavily exploited by unscrupulous bosses. As a result, there is an increasing number of documented cases of brutal workers rights violations and abuses. There are many ways to work around this. In 3F in the Copenhagen area, efforts have been made to create space for foreign workers in the trade union - among other things, is the creation of a Polish club and a club for Filipino women. To highlight the global perspective, Afrika Kontakts South African Working Group will include perspectives of South Africa, where millions of foreign immigrant workers are employed, often in the worst paid jobs and under brutal working conditions.

In this workshop we want to create solutions, and find answers to the questions: How do we fight the grim exploitation of foreign workers, and effectively create a safety net and a space for everyone in trade unions?

opportunity is there to tap into and mobilise peoples' grievances toward progressive aims. In this workshop, we will explore the similarities and differences between right-wing movements worldwide and how we can counteract these developments together.

The workshop will be facilitated by DEMOS and the Antifascistisk Netværk. DEMOS is a declared anti-racist and anti-sexist association, which fights any form of right-wing racism and sexism in Danish society.

The Antifascistisk Netværk has been started by former political prisoners from the KZ camps in Germany and their relatives.

## **22. CLOTHING PRODUCTION IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: ENSURING DUE DILIGENCE**

The abundance of cheap, fashionable clothes in our closets and in the shops are not without sacrifice. The clothing production has a huge impact on the environment and is known for having employees working under horrible conditions in the manufacturing of cheap commodities. The corporations are responsible for countless violations of human rights and an unfair distribution of the profit through the extraction of value from their supply chain. How can we create an alternative to this production, which is both socially and environmentally sustainable? In the workshop we will explore what role we have in the Global North and how we can mobilize the global community and push for structural change in the industry and in consumers.

## **A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE CONFERENCE**

1. Maj Fonden  
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