



WORLD MARCH OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

With our 9th International Meeting only a little more than two months away, reality is showing how urgent it is for us to reflect upon the path we have been building : what we have already done, how, what we achieved, what we learned, the challenges we face and, in relation to this, what changes we need to make. As we were finishing this newsletter, we witnessed two major popular uprisings, first in Turkey and later in Brazil. Throughout Europe, as in Portugal, the protests against the packages that impose pro-market policies, lead to greater exploitation of the people and increased poverty, and try to eliminate the possibility of women having autonomy over their bodies continue.

While our struggles are being heard and gaining greater presence in the streets, we also see in these processes the expression of neonazi, fascist or fundamental conservatism, which is strongly revealed through machismo, homophobia and violence.

Now, more than ever, it is necessary to do what we have been proposing since our movement began : occupy the streets, dialogue with public sentiment that demands changes and effective political participation in the decisions that determine our lives and, ultimately, radicalise democracy. In Tunisia, for example, since the World Social Forum (WSF), progressive movements continue to mobilise on the streets in order to prevent them from being taken over by fundamentalism. At the same time, we are working in alliance with other social movements, like we did at the Alter Summit, held in Greece, in coordination between social movements (either through the WSF or the Alba - Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America) and in our construction process with la Via Campesina.

On the eve of the Meeting that will also decide on our fourth international action and the transition of the International Secretariat, it is also important to do an evaluation on how to guarantee the permanence and coherence of our movement. The path we have walked along until now shows us that we made the right bet by investing in training, the renewal of leaderships and especially in building collectively.

INTERNATIONAL

Feminism on the march to change the world! Preparations moving forward for the 9th International Meeting!

Some of the main points discussed at the most recent International Committee (IC) meeting, which was held from May 23 to 26 in Maputo, Mozambique, included the global social, economic and political context, the preparation of a proposal for the 4th International Action of the World March of Women (WMW), and the process for transitioning our International



IC members during the seminar organized by the Women's Forum, which coordinates the WMW in Mozambique

Secretariat (IS). All of these subjects were covered in preparation for the 9th International Meeting (IM), which will be taking place in Brazil this August, under the slogan, “Feminism on the march to change the world!” Reference documents are being prepared for each point and will soon be sent to the National Coordinating Bodies (NCBs) at the WMW, so that they can be discussed beforehand.

In addition to sharing information about logistical and political preparations, and about mobilizations in the different regions, the IC members – come from



Bangladesh, Brazil, Guatemala, Mali, Mozambique, the Philippines, Portugal, Quebec, Tunisia and Turkey – also addressed the political training that will be provided at the IM, for all of the international, regional and national participants.

After the meeting, the March's IC members participated in a public seminar organized by the Women's Forum on May 27 and 28, entitled "Together, building feminist alternatives for women's human rights," alongside activists from the Mozambican NCB and from other feminist and women's organizations (see the article on this subject further on in this newsletter).

Mobilization

The WMW in Brazil estimates that a total of 1,400 women will be participating in the different training

activities that will be taking place simultaneously during the IM, including panels, working groups, various hands-on workshops (for example, a batucada session), an exhibition on the solidarity-based economy, artistic and cultural events, and a large rally on August 31. Some 150 international participants (delegates, guests and regional observers) from 40 countries are expected at the International Meeting.

We ask the NCBs to send your photos, videos and other news about your mobilization for the IM to communication@marchemondiale.org so that we can share this on our website.

Poster for the 9th International Meeting: click on <http://www.sendspace.com/file/jzиеen> to download it (in high resolution).

Photo gallery of mobilizations in Brazil

WMW committees in several states of Brazil preparing their delegations to participate in the training activities in the run-up to the 9th International Meeting. Follow mobilizations in Brazil by visiting: www.sof.org.br



Rio Grande do Norte



São Paulo



Amazonas



Minas Gerais



Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul



Ceará



Campinas



At the same time as the WMW in Brazil holds debates in preparation for the meeting, they continue to be present on the streets. WMW Brazil participated in all of the mobilizations that exploded in June, demanding quality public transportation, health and education services and denouncing bills that intend to limit women's autonomy over their bodies, such as the Statute of the Unborn Child – that tries to give rights to fetuses, offering a child support to women who have been victims of rape – and the "Gay Cure" that tries to suspend regulations that prohibit treating homosexuality as something that must be cured and treated, which is not allowed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and its signatories, including Brazil.

AFRICA

Mozambique: WMW discussing prospects for the women's struggle and feminist alternatives

The WMW's International Committee participated in the discussions held on May 27 and 28, at the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Women's Forum, who is the Mozambican WMW National Coordinating Body. Under the banner, "Together, building feminist alternatives for women's rights," the seminar brought more than 500 women together, from all of the country's provinces and the different organizations that are part of the Forum. Dancing, music, theater and a lot of poetry were on the program which, based on the history of women's struggles in Mozambique, Africa and around the world, was dedicated to strategic thinking for the future.

The seminar was held on the International Day of Action for Women's Health (May 28). On this subject, our sisters in Mozambique stressed that the rate of violence against women continues to run high and that women must not be made to feel guilty for the violence perpetrated against them. They emphasized the need to decriminalize abortion in the country, which is responsible for a large number of women's deaths, and to expand the concept of health to be more comprehensive, going beyond motherhood to include the idea of sexual rights as a necessity for the well-being of women.

It was determined that non-sexist education campaigns in schools are needed, to dispel the idea that men have more sexual needs than women, and traditional rites of passage need to be called into question, as these often result in violence against women. Finally, sexist advertising campaigns were denounced, because they impose a single image of the perfect female body and affect women's health (for example, with increases in eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia).

During exchanges with the international participants, about how to strengthen alliances between women in the South and between the South and the North, we

noted that violence against women is common to the entire world and that this has to do with an oppressive, capitalist, patriarchal, racist system that not only exploits women – as it does the environment – but that also attacks public services and the rights that we have won through years of mobilization. This demands work

on struggles that unite us all, fighting exploitation and discrimination.

Looking at the global scene and the alternatives proposed by the capitalist system to escape from its crisis, we noted the advance of neocolonialism, which wants not only the riches of our lands, but also a consumer market for its products. In this way, the fight against the agents of neocolonialism – like mining companies – are transforming into a common point between the social movements of different countries, especially those of the geopolitical South.

Women's bodies as a disputed territory is another area of shared struggles. Young women of Mozambique are seeing their autonomy and their access to education being restricted by the possibility of rape that is threatening female students, particularly at night. As a result, living a life without violence, being able to go out in public without having to worry and being free to dress as they want are very concrete demands for Mozambican

women. They related how, in their country, for example, they are fighting to put an end to the prohibition on receiving care from the health service if they are wearing short-sleeved shirts: "We cannot be prevented from exercising a right."

They emphasized the importance of amassing strengths and of establishing alliances with other social movements that are also working to change the system, which will make it possible to keep building on this varied subject, with every woman and man sharing their experiences, their lives and their ideas. And,



based on that, we are building peaceful struggles, in which we occupy the streets, with our symbols, in a creative manner, and we are making ourselves heard by our transnational sisters, the authorities, and society in general.

The young women also stressed that, in building the movement and to strengthen our fights, continuous dialogue with activists with more experience and feminist training will be necessary, working off the

AMERICAS

WMW mobilizes international solidarity for justice and memory

In April and May, our gaze turned toward Guatemala, where the former head of State (during the military dictatorship), Efraín Ríos Montt, was tried and sentenced to 80 years in prison for the genocide of the Ixil people. Guatemala is the first country to prosecute for genocide nationally, which is progress in the fight against impunity and in re-establishing the nation's historical memory, which could have a major effect on the world and in various Latin American countries, where justice against military generals has not yet been obtained.

Among the different witnesses heard during the trial, the testimony of 10 Ixil women, who had been the victims of the systematic, massive sexual violence practiced by the army, showed how those acts had caused irreparable damage to their bodies and their lives. Their tales explained how rape was a systematic, pre-meditated and widespread practice that destroyed and seriously injured Ixil women as a specific group. In addition to sexual slavery, the women reported that they were forced to cook for those same soldiers, and that many families were displaced by the burning of their homes and crops and the destruction of their assets by the army. "I came to say this, so that it would not happen to us women again" (click on the blog <http://paraqueseconozca.blogspot.com/>, to read reports on their testimony and the sentencing document).

The Women's Sector, which coordinates WMW in the country, followed the entire trial – which was marked by various attempts at dismissal – for the conservative, military sector's persecution of human rights activists, attributing crimes to them that they had not committed, and accusing sisters in social networks in order to publicly discredit them and label them as a threat. The trial was a victory for all the people in Guatemala who are fighting to preserve their country's memory as part of the peace agreements and who are

basis of what we, as women, are experiencing in our lives, and our awareness that we are not starting from scratch, that we need to be connected to our historical memory.

Finally, we need to assert the feminism-based alternatives that we are proposing in order to change society, built on the principles of equality and harmony with nature, by which culture itself can change.

still demanding the people's rights to their territories and decent standards of living. The Constitutional Court, citing problems with the form of the legal trial, overturned the sentence.

The communities and organizations have continued to assert that the genocide had already been tried and that Ríos Montt had been sentenced, and that anything less would be the product of an abuse of power by those who want to maintain impunity, by any means possible. On June 22, a caravan (picture) arrived in the Ixil peoples' territory, to symbolically deliver the sentence to the three peoples' ancestral authorities and, at the same time, to commemorate the Dignity of the Ixil People and to thank those women and men who, with the power of truth, broke the silence and achieved this triumph for peoples all over the world.



Honduras - In June, another important victory was achieved through international solidarity, with the intense mobilization that resulted in the cancellation of the legal investigation of Bertha Cáceres, the Coordinator of COPINH (Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of

Honduras) and her immediate, definitive release. She had been arbitrarily detained by the army on May 24, while leading a rally that rejected and opposed the Agua Zarca Hydroelectric Project in the region of Río Blanco, Intibucá, in a clear example of the strategy of repressing and criminalizing popular struggles that has been on the rise in Honduras since the coup in 2009.

During a hearing held on June 13, it was proven that it was nothing more than the persecution of the fighter, who had repeatedly reported threats to her person and her organization.

For more information on this case, see this article from Radio Mundo Real:

<http://www.radiomundoreal.fm/6735-illegitimate-operations?lang=en>.

EUROPE

Women fighting against neoliberalism and conservatism

On June the 7th and 8th, the WMW attended in Athens (Greece) an important gathering with the slogan “Roll back Austerity before Austerity will roll back Democracy: For a democratic, social, ecological and feminist Europe”. Its main aim being to strengthen the cooperative work among social movements and trade unions in Europe, facing the austeritarian policies (both austere and authoritarian) promoted by the “troika” (International Monetary Fund, European Central Bank and the European Commission) and seeking common demands and action points. The “Alter Summit” began with a feminist assembly, gathering hundreds of participants. Check the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=nqdQ_Zh1Dc



Born within the European Social Forum spirit, the Alter Summit aims to support the mobilizations widely spread in countries such as Spain, France, Greece and Portugal, to reshape policies on the basis of equality and social and ecological common goods.

The Alter Summit works as a network of 189 member organisations from the civil society. There aren't political parties as such although they're welcome to support it, together with political personalities supporting the struggle against neoliberal policies. In Athens, a manifesto of the peoples was agreed as common political document. This process is not finished yet and it seeks to discuss in a deeper way different positions and common actions.

There have been a few dates noted down to develop sectorial actions at the European level together with coordinated anti-austerity actions. Next steps will take place in the future meetings of the organisations involved in this building process. Further information: <http://www.altersummit.eu/communiques/article/for-the-cradle-of-democracy-is-not?lang=en>

The Alter Summit was held in the Olympic Stadium in Athens' city center: another example of quite a useless space once the mega-event happened. And, while that happens, Greek women have to pay 800 euros to give birth, being criminalized if they choose to give birth at home. Further information on <http://diki79.blogspot.gr/2013/05/the-crime-of-giving-birth.html> and here:

http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Stop_the_coordinated_attack_on_home_birth_in_greece/?fPsEybb&pv=1

To get to know more about the Alter Summit:

<http://www.altersummit.eu/alter-sommet/article/what-is-the-alter-summit>

Troika walks over the radio and TV public services in Greece

After the Alter Summit meeting, the Greek people faced once again another specific example of Austerity political measures. On June the 10th, the Minister of Financial Affairs announced the closure of all radio and TV services from the state broadcaster ERT and the immediate dismissal of over 2800 workers, without any previous democratic consultation.

The answer didn't take longer: thousands of citizens joined ERT workers and their union (POSPERT); the trade unions all over the country called a general strike and social movements and unions all over Europe supported it.

ERT workers are trying to keep their job positions and keep running a web TV channel, while demanding the Prime Minister, Antonio Samaras, to revoke the decision of the Minister of Finances.

We members of the WMW, are joining the international solidarity shown to the Greek people' struggle, making it clear that not women neither peoples will pay for a crisis that it's not ours!

Youth prepare their Third Feminist Camp

For the third year in a row, the WMW in Europe is preparing the Young Feminists Camp. This year, the meeting will be held in Vieira do Minho, Portugal, between August 4th and 12th. Even though their funding requests were not approved, these youth decided to continue organising the camp and to organise a fundraising campaign for it. Click here <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/european-young-feminists-camp> to access information on the campaign. Participate and help promote it!

Portugal: The crisis used to backtrack on gains won by women

In Portugal, austerity policies have already led to serious backsliding of the recent and fragile achievements of women's struggles, which will be difficult to regain. Before the crisis, women continued to have a smaller presence on the labor market, many of them working part-time or otherwise underemployed, their wages were at least 18% lower than those of men, and the risk of poverty and social exclusion was higher for women.

At present, the number of women excluded from welfare protection is on the rise, aid for families and children is dropping, the minimum wage has been frozen, old age and unemployment protection is shattered, and this situation is getting harder and harder every day.

The educational system is being demolished, with Portugal recording the lowest level of investment in the European Union, teachers' aids being dismissed, a rising number of students per class, and an overall, pronounced divestment from the sector. It must be remembered that access to education was a key factor on the road toward the emancipation of women that took place over the course of the past decades, and education employs a substantial proportion of women in the labor force.

Health is also suffering: healthcare services are closing, including the largest maternity ward in the country,

care is being focused on emergency situations, taxes are being created, and treatments and medications are being rationed. There have been cuts in services like family planning, pregnancy and maternity support, abortion, and sexually-transmitted disease prevention. And, in this way, women's autonomy is under threat.



We are resisting, inventing, taking to the streets, becoming experts in working with virtually no budget, and denouncing all of this. We are building solidarity. We are being told to return to the home, and we have answered: "We want a life of dignity, and democracy in every aspect of our lives, and

we will not stop until our lives are firmly in our own hands." And, of course, we will not pay for their crisis! Enough!

We are calling for signatures for the feminist anti-austerity letter of protest.

The text is available (in Portuguese) at:

<http://marchamundialdasmulheres.blogspot.pt/2012/03/protesto-feminista-austeridade-agrava.html>

Click here to sign it:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?fromEmail=true&formkey=dC1CYW1MU1Y4QlIKSDJ2WjFMbzljVGc6MQ>

Turkey: demonstrations challenge capitalism and the limits imposed on freedom and democracy

At the beginning of June, the Turkish government's decision to transform part of a park in the city of Istanbul into an Ottoman style shopping center unleashed a significant movement across the country that started to question the government's conservative offensive. Women have been present throughout the process and have played a strong role: mothers and teachers were the first to rise against grabbing of Gezi Park, near Taksim Square in Istanbul, for commercial purposes. Many more people joined them, the majority of them youth, who occupied the park in tents, to protest against the grabbing process. Theatres, train stations, cinemas, and other historical buildings have gone through the same process of privatization in other parts of the country.

The violent reaction of the police - that burned tents and used tear gas against protesters - attracted solidarity of a growing number of people, who came



every evening directly from their jobs to immediately go demonstrate in the streets. The protests expanded to different parts of the country, reaching more than 70 cities.

Taksim Square is also a symbolic place for the May 1st struggles. However, this year, the government banned demonstrations. The same happened in central squares

in other cities. There were conflicts between the police and the opposition on the 1st May. In addition, the Turkish government is pursuing non-governmental organizations and tries to prevent them from having fundraising through projects and also through banning solidarity dinners or concerts without permission from the Ministry of Interior.



Women and young people are also rebelling against the manipulation of their bodies and lives, as represented by mechanisms such as the introduction of religion education in public schools, including girls having to cover their heads, restricting access to abortion in public hospitals and also in private clinics, and imposing limitations on alcohol that prevent, for example, alcohol being served at weddings. Measures like this have resulted in increasing discontentment with the government. Its reaction is further violence which also contributes to increase the scope of the demonstrations, which is now being joined by artists, intellectuals and football fans.

The struggle continues

As the government tries to suppress the uprising by all available means, including witch-hunting, mass arrests and using chemical weapons against people, the protesters have immediately invented new non-violent actions like a “standing person” who stands still without speaking in public spaces such as a square where a protester was killed and at a courthouse where police dragged lawyers away. Parks, even small parks, have been accommodating evening forums until midnight where everyone has a right to speak for 2 minutes and various themes are being debated from monitoring elections, questioning culture of consumerism, violence against women to alternative

medicine. This highlights the importance and urgency of our feminist alternatives as the people begin looking for an alternative way of life at local level.

Popular reaction echoes our struggles against the system but at the same time sexism and homophobia also has become apparent. This involves a lot of awareness raising, which in fact, is already taking place: for instance, football fans have held workshops on non-sexist language in the park forums. As protestors chant “this is only a prelude, the struggle continues”.



LGBT Pride Parade

Despite the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan neo-conservative oppression, Taksim hosted the most powerful LGBT Pride Parade gathering 50.000 people on 30th June in Istanbul. This marks the largest parade since the event first kicked off a decade ago. The demonstrators chanted various slogans such as: "Life, in spite of fascism", "The world will only be free if gays are free," "Struggle against fascism!" "Love, love, liberty; back off animosity," "At schools, offices and the Parliament, gays are omnipresent," "Like it or not, gays are everywhere!"

Check video on the parade at: <http://vimeo.com/69478597>

MIDDLE EAST-ARAB WORLD

Women Conference decides for an international action day against political murders



The WMW was present at the Middle East Women Conference held in Diyarbakir, Kurdistan, between 21st May and 2nd June.

Participants included about 250 women from 26 countries, including Palestine and Tunisia.

Describing this Conference as a new beginning, women acknowledged that the Middle East has been going through a momentous of historical changes, which means both risk and opportunities for women. Therefore the Conference serves women's active

participation in this historical process. This is why it concluded an agreement on setting up a communication network including all participants and also a coordination body. The Conference decided to declare 9th January as an international action day against political murders. That date marks the assassination of three Kurdish women



activists, Sakine Cansız, Fidan Doğan and Leyla Şaylemez in Paris, France, on beginning of 2013 (click to [read more](#) about this).

ALLIANCES AND MOBILIZATIONS

WMW present at the Women's Assembly of Via Campesina

More than 300 farmers participated in the Via Campesina Women's Assembly between June 6 and 7, held just before the movement's 6th International Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia. Jean Enriquez, a member of the WMW's International Committee for Asia-Oceania, represented the March at the meeting and denounced the violence used as a structural tool by capitalism, colonialism and the patriarchy.

The Assembly paid homage to Maria do Fetal Almeida, the Portuguese Via Campesina interpreter who was killed by her boyfriend at the start of 2013, and reinforced the movement's promise to fight to eradicate violence against women in the countryside and the cities. Discussions of the current context focused on the crisis, capitalism and the strengthening of the patriarchy in that scenario and how the latter affects women. Under the slogan "Sowing the seeds of action and hope, for feminism and food sovereignty!" the women farmers talked about their fights, their challenges and their aspirations.



The discussions also highlighted subjects like free trade agreements, the effects of climate change on agriculture and farmers' lives, the protection of common goods and the environment, and peasant's strategic role in driving community values and food sovereignty.

The women ended the assembly by talking about their political process for self-organization, the "Stop the



Violence Against Women" campaign, and the production of a broad action plan, by continent, with dates for common actions, as well

as training, communication and exchanges. It was followed by Via Campesina's 6th International Conference, which took place from June 9 to 13.

Click to see a [video of the Women's Assembly](#) and to see [pictures of the Assembly](#).

Click to read the [Jakarta Call](#), final Via Campesina's 6th International Conference declaration.

Our presence at WSF 2013, Tunisia: a brief evaluation

The World Social Forum was held in Tunisia, from March 26 to 30. It is estimated that more than 50,000 people from 127 countries participated in it, the majority of whom were young people from Tunisia. While preparing for the Forum, the Tunisian social organizations did not reduce their presence in the streets, or their participation in strikes and resistance to attacks against women and the UGTT (Tunisian General Labor Union). The escalation of violence culminated with the assassination of the left leader Chokri Belaid, around one month before the Forum, an event which was reflected in the WSF's program and at different times during the demonstration in the streets. The WSF successfully became a part of the ongoing struggles in the country, breathing new life into the political meaning of the Forum itself.

With the support of the WMW's Tunisian NCB, with counts a large number of young women, and of WMW activists from different countries (Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Catalonia, France, Palestine, Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey and Western Sahara), we were able to ensure a significant presence of the WMW at the event's main activities: the Women's Assembly and the grand march that inaugurated the Forum on March 26, the Social Movements Assembly on March 29, and the closing march in solidarity with Palestine on March 30.

In addition, we organized self-managed activities that were key opportunities for discussions of how to build a feminist, anti-capitalist movement and our anti-system alternatives, with the women of Tunisia and women from our allied movements and organizations, like CADTM, E-Changer, GGJ and Via Campesina.



Activity "The construction of a feminist and anticapitalist movement"



Women's Assembly



Opening March, on March 26

Souad Mahmoud of Tunisia is a member of the WMW's International Committee, representing the Arab World. She told us that the presence of WMW activists from around the world strengthened the feeling, among her country's activists, of belonging to an international feminist, anti-capitalist, anti-patriarchal movement, and deepened the need for the NCB to establish firm roots at the national level and to attract the interest of more Tunisian women in the WMW and its programs. Souad also reported that, since the WSF, the other, mixed-gender social movements now have a better understanding of the WMW and our independent actions.

But perhaps the most significant result of the WSF for us was taking back public spaces for the people: "We rekindled the Tunisia of old, before the fundamentalists came into power [in the election held on 10/23/2011]. Before that, we were stifled, and the WSF was like a breath of fresh air. We are now back out in the streets, we hold book fairs until late in the evening, and we know that we need to occupy the space without fear, so that we do not leave it open to the fundamentalists to reoccupy. We are also learning practical things like how to have slow marches, with clear messages, in which our symbols are visible. And, lastly, the importance of accepting and demonstrating international solidarity with the struggles of women and peoples in other parts of the world, as was the case, recently, with the trial against Ríos Montt in Guatemala."

During the IC's discussions in Maputo, it became clear that there are two different spheres: one, the internal dynamics of the WSF, and the other, the meaning of the event for its participants, an event which was



WMW and GGJ delegations during the march in solidarity to Palestine, which marked the closing of the event, on March 30.

transformed into a useful space for dialogue and training. And, symbolically, the WSF agreed that we are part of something bigger, which is even more important when we find ourselves under attack. It was noted that, in the future, the presence of the WMW at regional and international forums and thematic events

Social Movements Assembly

The Social Movements Assembly (SMA) was included in the WSF program, with the support of more than 35 organizations. About 1,000 people participated in the SMA, especially men and women from Tunisia. The WMW ensured the participation of leaders from the UGTT trade union, who opened the Assembly with words of welcome. Ahlem Belhadj of the ATFD represented the WMW and presented our shared action area on violence against women. The Assembly was run by Helena Wong of GGJ (Grassroots Global Justice) and Oskar Simon of Intersindical Alternativa de Catalunya, assisted by Mimoun Rahmani of CADTM and Shams Abdi from the WMW.

Unfortunately, the program of the Assembly was aggressively interrupted by Moroccan delegates. They took over the stage and violently attempted to prevent the reading of the last section of the declaration, in which we affirmed that we “defend the right of peoples to self-determination and sovereignty, as in Palestine, the Western Sahara, and Kurdistan.” Time for comments from the audience

must continue, but that our priority must always be placed on our participation in the Social Movements Assembly. We also need to determine how much energy to devote to the WSF’s organizing bodies (International Council, commissions and working groups).

had been scheduled after the reading of the declaration, but that became impossible because of the verbal and physical threats that were made against the Assembly’s MCs. In light of the difficulty of continuing the debate, we announced the end of the Assembly, once the reading of the declaration was finished.



Helena (GGJ), Oskar (IAC) and Shams (WMW) facilitated the assembly ...



... in which a large number of Arab world activists participated world.

Going forward, the task will be to make progress in establishing dates for common actions and a seminar between the different movements, with more time and preparation.

Click here to read the [full declaration of the Assembly](#), and the [facilitation group’s report](#) on the events that took place during the SMA.



Our grief and condolences

Our friend and sister Miriam Nobre, coordinator of the International Secretariat has tragically lost her daughter Helena. We, from the WMW, stand in solidarity with her through these difficult moments. We will continue our work to build a world more just, with the strength, the beauty and the sweetness of Helena in our thoughts. All our feminist affection and support are with Miriam at this time.

WMW International Committee

This **Newsletter** is edited by the World March of Women International Secretariat (IS) and distributed by email.

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