

## BELGIUM

### CADTM Belgium

*I'm a member of CADTM Belgium (Committee for Abolition of the Third World Debt) which belongs to an International Network (CADTM) present in 33 countries. Since 1990 we work on South Debt and ask for cancellation of this debt without any condition. Since the Global crisis in 2008, we underline the links between North and South Debt and take part to the Citizen Debt Audit which has been launched in february 2013. We fight for cancelling the illegitimate debt.*

### Causes of the debt crisis

In Belgium, as in many other countries, the public debt grew up after the 2007-2008 financial crisis created by private institutions and the socialization of their debts. It came from 285 billions euros (84 % of GDP) before the crisis to 395 billions (100 % of GDP) today.

Source : Agence de la dette

But there are other causes of the public indebtedness in Belgium, once again comparable with a lot of other countries : the explosion of interests rates of the eighties (until 14%!) ; a class fiscal policy (with many fiscal reforms that benefited to the richest and big companies and provoked a loss of income compensated by the borrowing on markets) ; a class monetary policy (that prevents the central bank from lending to the State which is obliged to accept the conditions of the private market – between 1992 and 2011 the State would have saved 250 billions euros if he had borrow on an 1 % interest basis...) ; useless and illegitimate spendings ; etc.

### Consequences

The consequences of those neoliberal policies (and the capitalist system, in general) are quite clear since a long time for the population in Belgium : the wages (direct and indirect) and public services are losing their substance to the benefit of profit since now more than 30 years. But things took another step since the last crisis with, each year, some austerity measures with the excuse of this debt service which reaches 45 billions of euros a year (the first spending, that represents 20 % of all). Until now the most important were in 2011 below the « socialist » government with cuts on public transports, civil servants, international cooperation, ecological transition supports, health services ; pension system reform ; unemployment system aggressive reform and wages freeze. Of course we can wait for much more after the european, federal and regional elections of 2014. Those measures hit firstly the poorest and women, and the situation is used to create a xenophobic atmosphere and to divide the population. A lot of big industries (Arcelor Mittal, Ford Genk, Caterpillar, etc.) closed down, letting hundreds of thousands without resources.

### Resistances

Many people continue to think that Belgium is an exception and that we won't be in trouble as the peripheral countries. The mass medias and public authorities use well of their languages to make this idea staying strong in the population mind. But each month more people are becoming more « indignados » and each month more people are organizing together to change the situation and the system which created it. Beyond all the small scale resistances, let's list a few important : the struggles convergence initiative of « [Alliance D19-20](#) » launched by the milk producers whose agenda is the fight against TSCG, TAFTA and austerity measures in Belgium and Europe ; the initiative to gather a maximum of field actors before the 1st january of 2015 (when 35.000 people will lose their rights to unemployment allocation) to cancel this reform ; the call from a section of one the biggest trade union « FGTB (Charleroi) » to unify the forces present at the left of the « socialist » and « greens » parties to create an anticapitalist relay alternative ; and of course the citizen debt audit campaign.

This one named « [à qui profite la dette ?](#) » was launched on November 2012 by four organizations (amongst them the CADTM) with a book, a small video that went viral, posters etc. Quickly, local groups were created to begin the audit (divided on research/analyze and awareness/mobilization working groups) and a national coordination was created in February 2013. We are right now working on national, regional, local, gender, social security and hospitals audits. We will launch at the end of 2013 a website for the citizen platform and a guide for a citizen audit in Belgium. There are more or less ten local groups and a twenty organizations participating to the process. And it's just a beginning... We need to retake control of our indebtedness and the economical orientation of our society.

WE DON'T OWE, WE WON'T PAY !

---

## BELGIUM CADTM Belgium

*I'm a member of CADTM Belgium (Committee for Abolition of the Third World Debt) which belongs to an International Network (CADTM) present in 33 countries. Since 1990 we work on South Debt and ask for cancellation of this debt without any condition. Since the Global crisis in 2008, we underline the links between North and South Debt and take part to the Citizen Debt Audit which has been launched in february 2013. We fight for cancelling the illegitimate debt.*

### Causes of the debt crisis

In Belgium, as in many other countries, the public debt grew up after the 2007-2008 financial crisis created by private institutions and the socialization of their debts. It came from 285 billions euros (84 % of GDP) before the crisis to 395 billions (100 % of GDP) today.

Source : Agence de la dette

But there are other causes of the public indebtedness in Belgium, once again comparable with a lot of other countries : the explosion of interests rates of the eighties (until 14%!) ; a class fiscal policy (with many fiscal reforms that benefited to the richest and big companies and provoked a loss of income compensated by the borrowing on markets) ; a class monetary policy (that prevents the central bank from lending to the State which is obliged to accept the conditions of the private market – between 1992 and 2011 the State would have saved 250 billions euros if he had borrow on an 1 % interest basis...) ; useless and illegitimate spendings ; etc.

### Consequences

The consequences of those neoliberal policies (and the capitalist system, in general) are quite clear since a long time for the population in Belgium : the wages (direct and indirect) and public services are losing their substance to the benefit of profit since now more than 30 years. But things took another step since the last crisis with, each year, some austerity measures with the excuse of this debt service which reaches 45 billions of euros a year (the first spending, that represents 20 % of all). Until now the most important were in 2011 below the « socialist » government with cuts on public transports, civil servants, international cooperation, ecological transition supports, health services ; pension system reform ; unemployment system aggressive reform and wages freeze. Of course we can wait for much more after the european, federal and regional elections of 2014. Those measures hit firstly the poorest and women, and the situation is used to create a xenophobic atmosphere and to divide the

population. A lot of big industries (Arcelor Mittal, Ford Genk, Caterpillar, etc.) closed down, letting hundreds of thousands without resources.

## Resistances

Many people continue to think that Belgium is an exception and that we won't be in trouble as the peripheral countries. The mass medias and public authorities use well of their languages to make this idea staying strong in the population mind. But each month more people are becoming more « indignados » and each month more people are organizing together to change the situation and the system which created it. Beyond all the small scale resistances, let's list a few important : the struggles convergence initiative of « [Alliance D19-20](#) » launched by the milk producers whose agenda is the fight against TSCG, TAFTA and austerity measures in Belgium and Europe ; the initiative to gather a maximum of field actors before the 1st january of 2015 (when 35.000 people will lose their rights to unemployment allocation) to cancel this reform ; the call from a section of one the biggest trade union « FGTB (Charleroi) » to unify the forces present at the left of the « socialist » and « greens » parties to create an anticapitalist relay alternative ; and of course the citizen debt audit campaign.

This one named « [à qui profite la dette ?](#) » was launched on November 2012 by four organizations (amongst them the CADTM) with a book, a small video that went viral, posters etc. Quickly, local groups were created to begin the audit (divided on research/analyze and awareness/mobilization working groups) and a national coordination was created in February 2013. We are right now working on national, regional, local, gender, social security and hospitals audits. We will launch at the end of 2013 a website for the citizen platform and a guide for a citizen audit in Belgium. There are more or less ten local groups and a twenty organizations participating to the process. And it's just a beginning... We need to retake control of our indebtedness and the economical orientation of our society.

WE DON'T OWE, WE WON'T PAY !

---

## ARGENTINA 2 -EN

After the military coup in 1976 and a decade of continuous neoliberal government (1989-1999), the working class in our country saw their standard of living deteriorate. A few of the permanent features from this period include increased poverty, unemployment, de-industrialisation, foreign debt and diminished public services. The dictatorship had smashed social and political organisations. The discipline of the economic crisis first and then unemployment made the chance of re-grouping class organisations difficult. Nonetheless, signs of recovery of that organisational link arose alongside resistance to the former. The deep crisis in the economy and dominant system led to the popular uprising in December 2001. In this crisis scenario for government and bourgeois hegemony, Néstor Kirchner came to power in 2003 as president of the country with a scant political base (he won a mere 22% of the vote). This government, followed by two mandates under Cristina Kirchner, has personified the symbolic and material role of regrouping the power of the dominant classes over new bases. This reconstruction of hegemony was mainly supported by a bold policy in the framework of economic recovery that improved the objective circumstance of the working classes. Whilst the productive framework of Argentina was left untouched and the profits of different elements within the bourgeois recovered, the government challenged certain established powers (monopoly media, the church, the judiciary, etc.) and took measures in the area of democratic and social rights that created expectations in wide sectors of society (Cristina Kirchner won in 2011 with 54% of the vote and today "Kirchnerism" is the largest political movement in Argentina).

Today Argentina is facing an undeniable economic slowdown and inflation that the government is

unable to control, highlighting the deep weaknesses in the growth seen since 2002. The economic backdrop that aided the emergence of Kirchnerism is no longer as favourable. The slowdown in GDP, stalled job creation and higher inflation highlight more the limits of the Argentine model than the difficulties from an institutional crisis. These contradictions explain the reappearance of restructuring tendencies. Beyond the fact that it is highly likely the government is followed by sectors from its own political arena and even where no return has been vaunted for classical neoliberal restructuring policies, possibly the most deep-rooted and independent features of Kirchnerism that allowed it to re-establish and preserve capitalist governance may progressively disappear.

**Democracia Socialista** (Socialist Democracy) came out of this context. The group was recently formed and functions as an internal tendency in the *Corriente de Organizaciones de Base La Brecha* (COB LB – La Brecha Grassroots Organisation Current). It mostly comprises militants from the student and teaching sector of COB LB who hold posts of responsibility in their respective grassroots organisations. As the major part of our “practical” political intervention is done directly from the *Corriente* (COB LB), the internal tasks developed by **DS** are based on propaganda, training and a constant drive for political relationships and debates inside the so-called “independent left” with an aim at developing an anti-capitalist alternative able to play a significant role in Argentine politics.

**COB LB** is a “political and social” organisation that appeared three years when a set of social movements came together around some large political stances (anti-capitalism, direct democracy, people power, anti-bureaucracy, feminism, class structure) and some common analysis of the current situation. It also sees itself as part of the “independent left”. **COB LB** has around 500 to 600 militants with representation in seven provinces, although the largest base is in the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires and the suburbs. There is a strong unemployed working class sector (*piqueteros* or picketers), an important student cohort, cultural militancy and embryonic union work, especially amongst teaching staff, where it works in wide anti-bureaucracy groups.

Another internal trend at COB La Brecha is “**La Caldera**”, a political organisation that was founded in 2010 as a grouping of pre-existing movements dating to the end of the 90s. Its work largely covers different fronts: unions, land, universities, the environment, culture and communication. Situational analysis material and strategic lines are in turn produced to contribute to further deepening a theoretical/political body of work for the new Argentine left.

---

## MEXICO REPORT

We have been unfortunate to be so close to the hegemonic goals of the United States, with treaties that strangle our sovereignty. In addition, for over 86 years we have also been governed by a conservative economic and political class that has at times waged a bloodthirsty war against a defenceless population such as in October 1968 in Tlatelolco, in 1997 in Aguas Blancas, etc.

We can also be proud that Leon Trotsky was welcomed by General Lázaro Cárdenas in 1937 with his later assassination by PCM Stalinists.

Countless instances of discontent with this US-led capitalist system have been seen.

We are currently experiencing very difficult circumstances despite the break in the 74-year PRI-led government hegemony 13 years ago. The PRI proclaimed itself to be the successor of the Mexican Revolution (untrue since those who appropriated it were the landowners as well as military chiefs who had fought in the revolution, killing 2 emblematic military leaders Emiliano Zapata and Francisco Villa, albeit reinventing history in their own favour). The hegemony was broken thanks to large swathes of the population becoming disenchanted with the party without truly assessing the fact that

they were offering their support to an extreme rightwing party such as the PAN, tied to finance and the church, a party that entered in triumph seeking to break with the laicism set out in the Mexican constitution.

The past 12 years have had a terrible impact. Firstly, Vicente Fox decided to break away from the traditional image of offering refuge to those under threat of death in their own countries, such as the ETA members handed over to Spain behind the backs of human rights supporters in Mexico, moving away from the image of the “older sibling” in Latin America, chasing Fidel Castro from a meeting because Bush had requested it (with this unfriendly image being widely broadcast), gifting water sources to US soft drinks companies and forgiving US oil debt without the consent of parliament and the people who were themselves suffering from shortages. In the second period with Felipe Calderón, the situation worsened further, with a war being declared on drug traffickers, relying on the armed forces in opposition to popular protests and pressure due to the killing of civilians and incriminating them as delinquents. The plan was a failure for the government and compromised the army in the folly, although that very same year, 2012, a high ranking official in the army stated that there was not actually a plan at all, the war made no sense; this official was duly arrested under false charges.

The result from the last 6 years of exercising discretionary power from the armed forces is: arrests, murders and kidnapping of thousands of innocent people, classifying them as a settling of scores between different organised criminal gangs (drugs, prostitution, extorting money for land use, the human organ market, etc.), as well as selective assassinations against resistance movements such as the Zapatistas, ethnic groups, human rights defenders, journalists, criminalising social protest leaders, femicide, etc.

The estimated balance of all of this, figures for which stopped being counted around 6 months due to the new elections, comes it at over 100,000 deaths, over a million displaced people and with an unknown amount of “disappeared” people due to kidnappings. All of this continues to take place today, only now there are no new figures. Human rights organisations state that the trend has not reversed, contrary to what the authorities would like us to believe. This is why we have demanded punishment for the crimes against humanity committed by the previous government – an initiative blocked by the new authorities.

The return to power of the PRI, agreed by the nation’s president, betraying fellow party members and candidates, once again closes the door to the presidency on the most popular modern left-wing leader (AMLO). The sinister neo-liberal promoter in Mexico, Carlos Salinas de G. ensured during his mandate in 1994-2000 the return of the PRI to the power that was merely loaned out to its ally, based on vote buying in the poorest and most backward sectors of the country (rural areas), surpassing the campaign limit outrageously and co-opting other powers: Legislative power with its allies amongst deputies and senators and Judicial power by buying judges off in the Supreme Court, the very judges who pass rulings on the electoral process.

Not to mention its most important ally, Televisa, the country’s most important mass media outlet – this is why the challenge made throughout the country failed to take hold.

Faced with this position of power, a pact between allies was set up which included for the first time one of the forces known as the opportunist left (PRD) that betrayed its candidate by supporting the new executive. This pact has been called the Pact for Mexico; its aim is to maintain former adversaries calm, conceding spaces of power and

sustenance. The PAN lost two-thirds of its members and the second was left with the hegemony of the opportunists and rich.

This is why at the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), the Mexican section of the 4<sup>th</sup>, we have been working with the forces the organisation allows us to be part of resistance movements and mobilising ourselves in solidarity with the people. We have had financial problems to regularly get our message across such as *Bandera Socialista*, but we still have a presence amongst students despite 3 former comrades leaving the party due to ideological differences to those agreed in the CC.

Another affected area is teaching, a sector that is currently fighting against labour and education reforms that seek to eliminate free education and privatise it, as well as interfering with the union, imposing a new general secretary (despite the former leader being imprisoned after being untouchable in power during the 2 previous presidential terms: although constituting one of the parties allied with the current executive, she was hounded out for asking for more contributions and threatening to mobilise her profession – this is why unilateral action was taken, without consulting the grassroots). Moreover, a Congress was summoned with those in the National Coordination for Education Workers (the most combative section against party-liners) where our comrades are working.

The most standout work is the political work of the PRT being done in the power sector, where due to anti-constitutional acts, the jobs of over 52,000 workers in the Mexican electricians union (SME) are disappearing, recognition of the national board is being denied – this being the craftiest move by Felipe Calderón in retaliation for the union having supported the PRD candidate in the elections, who was robbed of victory in 2000-2006 due to his support for social movements. At the heart of all this is the privatization of the electricity industry in favour of multinationals such as Telefónica, and sharing the spoils around Calderón supporters and cabinet members, taking over the fibre optic cables that have a capacity to provide TV, video, image and voice services without the need for large investments, seeking to eliminate Telmex and stealing its top customers, etc.

This shook the non-government aligned and independent unions, leading them to bring out onto the streets over 100,000 workers and the general public. After three years of resistance we managed to get the right to retirement recognised for over 1,200 colleagues in the SME, with the right to work in the sector with the company CFE pending recognition or building a new company. The statement from the federal authorities was a relief for our comrades, linked to the acknowledgement of them (recognition of the new CEN, where the strongest officials in this resistance participate and the general undersecretary continues). All of this is a very important partial victory with the other 12,000 workers who did not accept redundancy requiring a return to the job market.

The other aspect of our political alliance with the head of the SME is the firm resolution of the general secretary to become a political party, giving us a chance to produce a Programme, Statutes, political position to build on, the name agreed by the different political forces (SME, PRT, OCS), with our organisation holding a privileged position. Therefore, we need to carry out our work to ensure our comrades are trained, building an organisation that will without doubt be historic for Mexico where the unions are calling for a party to be founded (SME, teachers sector, public transport, electricity distribution as well as unprotected sectors such as women, peasant farmers, housewives, young people). Before coming to this event, we managed to legally construct the first space in

Mexico and this weekend we are going around the capital; we have 20 states planned to carry out this campaign and whether we manage to get this registration or not, we are already a political option that is building the foundations for its future including our revolutionary Marxist legacy to build a mass workers party.

In solidarity, Jesús Franco P.

Member of the CC and CP of the PRT in Mexico

---

## INDONESIA-EN

### **Indonesia: exploitation of people and nature**

By : Sarah Agustio and Nalendro Priambodo, Members of KPO-PRP Indonesia

For 350 years, parts of the islands that form the archipelago called Indonesia today were colonized by the Netherlands. The gathering of resources in these islands by Dutch colonists was part of the 'primitive accumulation' that allowed the Dutch Republic of the 16<sup>th</sup> century to develop into one of the first capitalist states.

Indonesia finally managed to win independence in the aftermath of the inter-imperialist Second World War. After the Japanese had beaten the Dutch and were in turn defeated by the Allies, the bourgeois-nationalist leader Sukarno declared independence in 1945. The Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) had been almost destroyed and driven underground by the Netherlands after a failed insurrection in 1928 and was unable to lead this struggle from a bourgeois-democratic revolution to a proletarian revolution.

A new generation of PKI leaders like D.N. Aidit reorganized the party, changing the orientation from a cadre-party to mass-party, and taking the parliamentary path. In the fifties, the PKI developed in the largest Communist Party in the world outside the Soviet-Union and China. It won over 16 per cent in national elections and claimed 3 million members.

The party supported Sukarno who had become president and enjoyed large popular support.

However, the PKI was seen as a threat by the Indonesian army and in 1965 it organized the massacre of up to 3 million PKI members and supporters. An important organizer of this bloodbath was General Sarwo Edhi Wibowo, father-in-law of the current president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and recently nominated as a 'national hero'.

After 1965, Indonesia became a dictatorship under general Suharto. We see his 'New Order' regime as the victory of US imperialism and its allies. Suharto removed all barriers to foreign capital, and attracted large, long-term foreign investors like Freeport McMorran Inc, the worlds largest gold mining company. Their gold-mine in the Papua region has destroyed forests and poisoned the soil and water. Large parts of the Indonesian rainforests have been cut to gather wood and make room for plantations. Until the late eighties, oil and gas were major exports of Indonesia, mostly to Japan and the US. Nowadays, forest and agricultural products are very important as are mining (coal, gold, nickel, tin, iron ore) oil, gas, and plantations. Indonesia is a country with a tropical climate and a very fertile soil but capitalist exploitation is destroying the environment, destroying the traditional livelihoods of people and endangering many species.

The New Order regime collapsed in 1998. It was followed by a period of reforms, the 'reformasi' era but democratic reforms have been limited. The government obeys the WTO , the IMF and the World Bank, and has implemented a massive liberalization program in almost all economic sectors. Foreign debt reached 2.273.76 trillion rupiah (1USD is 11500 rupiah). Of a total population of 240 million, 190 million people live on less than 2USD per day.

After the destruction of the Left in 1965, new organizations were formed in the late 90's. The leftwing Partai Rakyat Demokratik (Popular Democratic Party) played a role in the protests against Suharto.

After 1998, there was more room to organize, new unions were formed and since three years Indonesia is seeing a rising labor movement. The reformist unions focus on social-economic issues. The task of the revolutionary party is to participate in economic struggle to get closer with the masses and raise awareness to a revolutionary political consciousness by explaining the principles, objectives and programs to the masses. Revolutionaries should emphasize that our urgent task is to build the political tool of the proletariat. So it is an necessity for a revolutionary party like KPO - PRP to collect all the demands of progressive movements and oppressed social layers.

---

## PERU-EN

### THE NATIONAL POLITICAL AND TRADE-UNIONS SITUATION IN PERU

Peru is home to around 30 million people and its economy is basically export-based, mainly minerals (gold, silver, copper, iron, etc.), the sale of fish meal and agricultural products (asparagus, avocados, fruits, etc.).

Today, as a consequence of the serious financial and economic crisis in the USA and Europe, Peru has seen its export income drop.

Two years ago, Ollanta Humala Taso, an officer in the military, was elected as President. He came up with a Nationalist and Progressive Government Plan for social inclusion mainly in support of the working class and the country.

The working class and the country as a whole now feel betrayed by the u-turn to the neoliberal right made by the nationalist government. We are ruled by the same neoliberals from previous governments, the minister of the economy Luis Miguel Castilla, recommended by the IMF and the WB, continues in his post and all the neoliberal policies come from his ministry, applauded by the neoliberal press which, in turn, demonises workers who with the CGTP are demanding a change in the neoliberal economic model.

The country's Congress, where the government enjoys a majority, is an echo of the Executive with workers' demands not being heard. Today, the Fujimorist members are more concerned with freeing the leader of their party, the dictator Alberto Fujimori sentenced to 25 years in prison for crimes against humanity and aggravated kidnapping; Perú Posible and Aprista Party members are in conflict to clear their own leaders Toledo and Alan García of the charges of corruption committed when they were in government.

In 2013, we are seeing a neoliberal offensive on the state with labour relations being made more flexible under law 30057 on Civil Service that repeals previous laws which workers had fought for alongside the CITE (State Workers Intersectoral Confederation) with meritocracy and examinations. Now mass lay-offs are being seen amongst government workers.

In the health sector, the Ollanta Humala government and the Minister of Health Midori de Habich, a representative of USAID, has issued Legislative Decree 1153 on Healthcare Reforms where administrative workers are excluded, thus smashing the health service with the aim of privatising health care.

The working class in general has been running centralised struggles with the CGTP. On 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013, a General Strike was called and, specifically, government workers are also fighting for the repeal of Law 30057 on Civil Service for worker redundancies; whilst in healthcare we are unifying the struggle with all associations to get LD 1153 on Healthcare Reform repealed, as it undermines our labour rights.

## FRANCE - EN

### The situation in the NPA

The NPA is in a phase of consolidation and redeployment. Recent demonstrations in Brittany proved that our proposals are received with sympathy.

At the summer university, there were 900 comrades present and this was a moment to assess our militant forces. The most recent public meeting in Paris, Saint-Denys, was dynamic and relaunched the actions by our militants and this is also the case in different other regions where we intervene regularly in support of local struggles.

The NPA takes part in the fight against the Notre Dame des Landes airport project, against exploitation of shale gas, against the pensions reforms and in the health sector: against the closure of the Lilas maternity ward and the accidents and emergency service of the Hôtel-Dieu, in support of the demand for a new statute by the midwives.

We also took part, since the beginning of November, in the students demonstrations against expulsions of students without legal papers and the struggles in Brittany against the closures of agro-food companies and against the ecotax. We want to unite the non governmental left against austerity, against anti-social reforms and against the far right.

Serge Levasseur NPA Pantin

---

### Argentina Report 2013

ATTAC/ CADTM- AYNA

At the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Latin America is undergoing major changes that do not necessarily head in the same direction but rather go in opposite, even separate ways.

In Argentina, the major institutional, economic and political crisis that shook the nation in 2001 ended the peso's exchange parity with the dollar and gave rise to a new political and economic situation.

In political terms, Kirchnerism came to power in 2003 with a 22% share of the votes, (in order to not go through a second-round) the government needed to find popular consensus in key sectors to support its political project. In this sense, one of the major pillars of support came from human rights organisations, mainly thanks to the trials and sentences involving those responsible for the last military dictatorship.

From then on, the political tools and mechanisms mostly used by the government have been based on an extractive model (supported by a favourable international backdrop) that restructured a system of partnerships between dominant sectors with new winners and losers.

On the winning side were capitalist sectors linked to production (soya exports and real estate income). On the losing side were the same people that has been affected by the social and ecological debts created by the winners - the damage caused by harmful agro-chemical crop-spraying to human health, water poisoned with cyanide, air pollution and a long litany of further damage.

It is clear that under this neo-development model (a term we could also discuss), there is no revolutionary or anti-capitalist intent but rather actions point to the preservation of political hegemony and even more "serious capitalism".

In turn, a set of redistributive policies based on the surplus generated from land speculation has allowed the government to build up strong support in working class sectors and lay the foundations of false hope in society: infinite and limitless development when the underlying “resources” are entirely finite and exhaustible in the medium-term.

---

## CAMEROON-EN

### NATIONAL SITUATION

Cameroon is situated in Central Africa, in the Gulf of Guinea, with a population of more than twenty million, formally independent since the 1st of January 1960, but still politically subject to the neo-colonial system and its ultimate international tutor, France.

After twenty years of undisputed and terrifying rule by the first president, Ahmadou Ahidjo, Cameroon is governed since 31 years by Paul Biya who liberalised somewhat the political space, associations and communications but continues behaving in the same way as at the period of the single Party. The democratisation of the country is extremely slow : there are three constitutions in the country and the institutions of the republic are being put in place according to the whims of the ruler and with formulas who perpetuate the system of corruption, nepotism and clientelism who maintain the masses of the people in a state of economic misery and increased dependence of measured perfusions by the regime.

During the last three years, we have had a wave of elections ( for the presidency in November 2011, for the Senate in 2012, ... and local and legislative elections in September 2013) but without reliable electoral lists, although with some minor measures ( biometric inscription of voters, but without biometric vote) linked to the organisation of the elections; but above all with the blessing of a justice system obeying the government for the management of all pre and post electoral disputes. The elections are organised according to a non consensual and unjust electoral system whose rules can be modified by a nearly one party national Assembly, often just before each election takes place. Cameroon possesses an enormous amount of wealth in its land ( forests, fauna, agriculture etc. and also an important biodiversity) and underground ( oil, bauxite, natural gas, iron, gold, uranium, manganese) and also an abundant and qualified workforce as well as highly educated intellectuals who do not hesitate anymore to emigrate (more than four hundred medical doctors from Cameroon are working in the Paris region according to the recent WHO statistics); but the population is suffering under absolute poverty levels.

At the economic level, Cameroon depends completely on export oriented governance. The country produces what it does not consume and consumes what it does not produce. This works since the 1990's in accordance to the principals and dictats of the International Financial Institutions. The permanent deterioration of the terms of exchange is only a pretext to put the masses to sleep as they don't understand much about the complexities of economic and financial international mechanisms. According to some rating agencies ( ex.: Doing Business), Cameroon is classified amongst the least credible countries ( 161st of 173) although the government continues to deny those problems, using economic indicators and some dubious contracts signed now and then.

The quality of education has been deteriorating during the last decennia and is is less and less adapted to the needs of companies. At the level of higher education, we see each year more than 100 000 new unemployed people (official statistics) arriving on a market whose capacities to absorb them are in permanent decline. More and more young people have no work and take all kinds of precarious jobs (moto-taximen, call-box, street vendors, small crime and the temptation to exile which is rightly or not, seen as a salvation).

Health (and education) have suffered most from the policy of social restrictions dictated by the IMF and the World Bank since 1990.

Today we continue to have epidemics of cholera and of malaria due to the lack of good governance in

favour of the people. Average life expectancy varies between 51 and 54 years, infant mortality rates, 95 pro mille, are on the rise during the last twenty years (official WHO statistics 2009).

The borders of the country are porous and more and more insecure in the North (intrusions by Sudanese and Tchad armed groups in the national parks; the permanent threat of BOKO HARAM, coming from Nigeria), in the West (Bakassi freedom fighters and other armed movements more or less mafia type in the Bakassi peninsula) and in the East (incursions by the national centrafrican army and by the rebels of Selaka and also trans border poachers from the river Congo basin). Internal insecurity inside the national triangle is also increasing with daily armed robberies, kidnappings and aggressions etc.

The current situation in Cameroon is also marked by 'operation hawk' (so called fight against corruption). Many trials, very fast for some, came to a conclusion lately. The speed and the different sanctions inflicted on those on trial, have finally convinced even the sceptics, of their political colour. Many complaints about the misappropriation of public money can be proven concerning the alleged victims but in fact, the majority of them are paying the price for their alleged or real appetite for the seat of M. Biya.

In the face of this nearly apocalyptic background, Cameroon has become a social explosive society ignored by many, we can see struggles by different social layers (students, small businesses, journalists, the whole of civil society, ...) and also we can deplore the incapacity of the opposition political parties and of the actors of civil society to form a common front in order to change this oppressive regime. The political landscape of Cameroon is characterised by splits who are more or less ideological. There is on the one hand the Ajoulat group (the remnants of the Democratic Bloc of Cameroon, this party was created by Luouis Paul Ajoulat during colonial times) who is in power (the Rdpc with its satellites and other natural allies of which many are in a clear oppositional stand against the regime) and on the other hand there are parties who declare themselves as resolute opposition not only towards the Ahidjo-Biya regime but above all against the perduring neo-colonial system of which "France-Afrique" remains the most visible symbol. The Manidem is part of this opposition.

---

## **.An introduction to the political situation in Denmark**

17.11.13

*Annika Holm Nielsen, SAP*

Denmark is a small country to the north of Germany, with a population of 5.5 million people. The danish public sector is quite large, about 50% of the workers are employed in this sector. The workers unions in Denmark are (more or less) organized in an unity movement, which organizes around 60-70% of the workers. This means that wages and working conditions aren't regulated by law, but by collective bargaining between the union and the bourgeoisie's interest organizations.

Since september 2011 Denmark has been governed by a 'center-left' minority government, that makes legislation with both the Red-Green Alliance and the rightwing). The current government came in to power after a 10 year reign of a right-farright government. The current government came into power with a lot of 'help' from the social movements (both the institutionalized, and grassroot type). Before the election, the parties in government had progressive programs, but after they came to power, they dropped almost all of it (not a suprice), and have been continuing the austerity and cut downs that the right-wing government started. This has resulted in the lowest level of support for the socialdemocrats ever.

Because of the los of believe in the 'left-wing' project, the movements have been very silent and inactive, since the national elections in 2011. Although, we do start to see the students organizing protest against reforms on the economical student support, and the on the higher

levelsof education. In the spring there was also a big conflict and lockout amongst the teachers, because of a reform on the primary schools, which meant more working hours etc. The lockout lasted for 25 days, until the government made the employers proposition for working terms legislation. The Red-Green Alliance supported the teachers quite well, and on many 'levels', which means that approximately 40% of all teachers in Denmark are going to vote for us in the upcoming elections!!

Just after deadline on this document (the 19th of November) there is local elections all over Denmark. The socialdemocrats (and the other governing parties) will probably loose a lot of support, and a lot of mayors and local representatives. The Red-Green Alliance (which the danish section, SAP, is a part of) will get approximately 10-15% of the votes nationally, and 20-30% in Copenhagen (the capital of Denmark). We might even be the biggest party in Copenhagen.

---

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO-EN

### **DANI NDOMBELE**

Sociologist

Responsible for public relations NAD-UNIKIN

National coordinator of SADEC ( Service for Action in Communities Development)

Assistant to the Rector of the University of Kongo ( Community University)

### **New Alternatives for Development - University of Kinshasa (NAD-UNIKIN)**

Students association

Since its foundation, the association works for permanent education and reaches out towards more and more people. Its mission is to mobilise volunteers willing to engage in activities in the fields of education and development. Intervention terrain: governance, health, education, agriculture, management of natural resources, debt, hydroelectricity, migration and environment.

The NAD-UNIKIN is a member of CORAP ( Coalition for the follow-up of the Reforms and Public Action) and of the international network of the CADTM.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) or Congo-Kinshasa**

A State in central Africa and the region of the Great Lakes

Area: 2 345 000 km<sup>2</sup> ( or four times France and nearly 80 times the surface of Belgium).

It is an African giant in view of its enormous richness. The DRC has a big potential in natural and mineral resources. This is considered a geological scandal but the people are living in misery.

Economic situation: economic and structural reforms are supported by the IFI. They observe a consolidation of the macroeconomic framework. The stock of external public debt was estimated in June 2013 at 4 684 000 000 \$USD. A project of building a hydroelectric plant (Inga 3) is on its way.

Political and security situation: the DRC is confronted with episodic and recurrent political and security tensions. Negotiations at the national level don't work. In the near future, a government of national cohesion will be put in place. The military defeat of the rebels of M23 (Movement of the 23rd of March) is making headlines. Governmental forces (supported by the forces of the Intervention Brigades of the United Nations) have expelled the rebel from the territories they occupied. Negotiations in Kampala between the government and the M23

rebels did not succeed in signing a peace agreement.  
There are other rebel movements in the East of the country.

---

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO-EN

### **DANI NDOMBELE**

Sociologist

Responsible for public relations NAD-UNIKIN

National coordinator of SADEC ( Service for Action in Communities Development)

Assistant to the Rector of the University of Kongo ( Community University)

### **New Alternatives for Development - University of Kinshasa (NAD-UNIKIN)**

Students association

Since its foundation, the association works for permanent education and reaches out towards more and more people. Its mission is to mobilise volunteers willing to engage in activities in the fields of education and development. Intervention terrain: governance, health, education, agriculture, management of natural resources, debt, hydroelectricity, migration and environment.

The NAD-UNIKIN is a member of CORAP ( Coalition for the follow-up of the Reforms and Public Action) and of the international network of the CADTM.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) or Congo-Kinshasa**

A State in central Africa and the region of the Great Lakes

Area: 2 345 000 km<sup>2</sup> ( or four times France and nearly 80 times the surface of Belgium).

It is an African giant in view of its enormous richness. The DRC has a big potential in natural and mineral resources. This is considered a geological scandal but the people are living in misery.

Economic situation: economic and structural reforms are supported by the IFI. They observe a consolidation of the macroeconomic framework. The stock of external public debt was estimated in June 2013 at 4 684 000 000 \$USD. A project of building a hydroelectric plant (Inga 3) is on its way.

Political and security situation: the DRC is confronted with episodic and recurrent political and security tensions. Negotiations at the national level don't work. In the near future, a government of national cohesion will be put in place. The military defeat of the rebels of M23 (Movement of the 23rd of March) is making headlines. Governmental forces (supported by the forces of the Intervention Brigades of the United Nations) have expelled the rebel from the territories they occupied. Negotiations in Kampala between the government and the M23 rebels did not succeed in signing a peace agreement.

There are other rebel movements in the East of the country.