



Cihaneke Din Ji Pêkan e

Another World is Possible

دیکه دینیا بکەر هه مه ممکن ههست

ههیه دینیا
ههیه دینیا

ههیه امکانه لهاله اخر

Başka Bir Dünya Mümkün

جیهانیکی تازه

دیکه دینیا بکەر هه مه ممکن ههست

Yew dinyayê bin pêkan a



Mesopotamia Social Forum



A CALL FOR THE MESOPOTAMIAN SOCIAL FORUM

20 December 2008

Representing a range of social initiatives, unions, civil society organizations, local governments, and individuals based in Mesopotamia, the cradle of humanity and for centuries a source of inspiration for the world's socio-cultural development, our aim is to come together with a growing number of groups worldwide who declare "another world is possible".

With the aim of creating a source of solidarity to stand against mankind's tyranny over fellow man and nature, which has led to all forms of decay and destruction, we hereby announce the initiation of the Mesopotamian Social Forum (MSF).

Mankind's unjust relations with fellow man have borne various forms of social decay: gender inequality, racism, nationalism, chauvinism, colonial/imperial modes of domination, and militarism. Likewise, as a result of mankind's unjust relations with nature, gargantuan dams have been built, genetically modified food mass produced, modes of production resulting in global warming furthered, and the balance of nature ruined. All forms of life have fallen victim to mankind's insatiable desires.

We hold that the politics of denial, negation, and assimilation carried out against the people living for centuries in this geography, against the Kurds as well as other peoples such as Assyrians, Armenians, Arabs, and Turkmen, are among the fundamental causes of instability in Mesopotamia and the Middle East at large. We further emphasize that these politics threaten the existence of all mankind. Centralist, theocratic policies that deny the existence of different peoples have transformed the Middle East into a graveyard. Capitalist modernity and political models based on the nation-state, supported by the West as a solution to theocratic structures, have been unsuccessful in bringing stability, just as they have been unable to democratize the Middle East.

Setting out with these principles, we see as indispensable for peace in the Middle East the transcending of the artificial borders dividing the people of the Middle East and Mesopotamia and the abolition of all obstacles preventing the foundation of economic, social, cultural, and democratic relations between these people.

Consequently, we who will convene at the MSF stand in opposition and solidarity against:

Mankind's domination over nature

The tyranny of the majority over the minority, the white over the black, men over women, and the strong over the meek

All forms of colonial domination, in particular domination over the popular classes

A worldview that sees poverty as the unalterable destiny of the poor, and that approaches social justice as something to be doled out in small measures and only when necessary to insure the continuity of the status quo

The capitalist system which, motivated by profit, produces beyond human need yet leaves humans in need, and foments unchecked consumption to fuel profit and growth without consideration of mankind and nature

Tyrannical wars in the name of increasing profit, the opening up of new markets, the invigoration of existent markets, and the aversion of crisis in the capitalist system

All forms of power designed to insure the security and continuity of the status quo

Militarism and its efforts to bring all of society into its fold



We hold as basic rights:

Equal forms of the distribution of economic value and social justice.

Freedom of organization and expression for the benefit of all people.

The protection, for future generations, of all forms of historical, cultural, social, and natural heritage and value.

The ability of every individual and every group to live, perpetuate, and claim the value of their social, political, cultural, religious, and sexual preference.

Resisting war, struggling for peace, and conscientious objection.

Our fundamental belief is that the benefits obtained from natural resources and cultural assets should be made available to and used in the locality from which they issue.

We defend the just distribution of economic and social value; we see as pivotal to social life justice for disadvantaged groups such as the disabled, children, the elderly, the unemployed, and the poor, and all those who struggle to survive.

We further reject and stand against:

All forms of racism, nationalism, gender discrimination, chauvinism, mob mentality, and militarism.

Socio-cultural homogenization, the erasure of difference, assimilation, forced emigration, and political exile.

All forms of tyranny over women, all methods of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence against women, and all that impedes the role of women in society, including: state violence, domestic violence, polygamy, murder committed under the cover of custom or honor, female circumcision, sexual harassment, rape, the objectification of female bodies, the colonization/appropriation/devaluing of female labor, discrimination based on sexual identity, and forced marriage.

All processes and methods of raising children that prevent their demands for recognition and a voice; all forms of oppression standing in the way of children receiving education in their native language; the recognition of children not as full humans possessing wills of their own, but merely as a social category to be constantly warned, kept down, and intimidated; the use of children as a cheap labor force and the colonization/appropriation/devaluing of their labor; and the forces that make children the basic objects of pornography, substance addiction, and individual and institutional violence.

All forms of power and of gerontocratic (the rule of elders) relations that stand in the way of the natural dynamism of youth, the young's search for freedom, their questioning spirit, and their visions of utopia.

Furthermore, we oppose the privatization and unjust appropriation of public goods created by the common labor of the people.

We oppose neo-liberal policies and the varied attacks on and efforts to empty-out and pacify unions and labor organizations and organizations representing workers and consumers.

And we oppose all forms of economic and social intervention designed to change the characteristics of regions of socio-cultural difference within nation states, undertaken without the approval and participation of the people living in those regions.

As participants in the Mesopotamia Social Forum, we call on everyone to support this process, strengthen our solidarity, and join the struggle occurring at a local, national, and global scale to declare "Another World is Possible".



MSF Principles

- *The MSF is not just a singular event, but a political process aimed at bringing together all individuals and social groups who hold a critical stance to neo-liberal policies, discrimination, war, gender discrimination, and all forms and relations of tyranny.
- *The MSF is a process that encourages the activities of participatory organizations and movements to shift their local actions to the national scale and then aim for active participation on a global scale, as well as to have their experiences in practices that bring about change in solidarity to create another world take root in a global agenda
- *The MSF adopts a positive platform for the free expression of participatory visions distant from majoritarianism and forms of difference-phobic centralism, as well as for individuals and groups resisting discrimination and practicing non-violent forms of social activism
- *The MSF aims to go beyond just protests, and to lay the groundwork for different social movements and individuals to share their experiences, to organize educational activities, to establish new sources of solidarity, to create collective timeline of struggle, and collectively to develop new utopias, new alternatives
- *On these grounds, one of the MSF's fundamental aims is to create more possibilities for the voices of those spheres of society standing against discrimination to be heard
- *The MSF is a transparent and democratic process, this guaranteed by the full participation of individuals and groups
- *The MSF takes all decisions based not on a majority of voices but by shared consensus
- *The MSF does not claim to be the representative of any regional, national or international social movement
- *The MSF is not an organization, a campaign, an alliance, or a federative



THE LIST OF MESOPOTAMIA SOCIAL FORUM SIGNATORIES

- 1.Human Rights Association - Diyarbakir Branch
- 2.Civil Society Development Association
- 3.Sarmasik, Association for the Struggle Against Poverty and Sustainable Development
- 4.Federation of Associations for Legal Solidarity for Detained-Condemned Families (Tuhaal-FED)
- 5.Association of Solidarity, Assistance and Culture for Victims of Migration (Goc-Der)
- 6.Sirt Association for the Struggle against Poverty
- 7.Initiative to Keep Hasankoyf Alive
- 8.Mesopotamia Culture and Solidarity Association
- 9.Fir Sultan Abdal Association - Diyarbakir Branch
- 10.Kurdish Writers Association
- 11.Batman Nefel, Association for Solidarity with the Poor and Struggle Against Poverty
- 12.Yeniçehir Youth Club Association
- 13.Mezopotamia Solidarity Association
- 14.Association for Those with Lost Relatives
- 15.Social Research and Training Center (TAREM)
- 16.Association of Legal Solidarity for Detained - Condemned Families (Tuhaal-DER)
- 17.Association of Religious Professions - DIADER
- 18.Berfin, Association for the Struggle against Poverty - Care
- 19.Aran Publishing House
- 20.Dicle News Agency (DİHA)
- 21.Azadiya Welat Newspaper
- 22.Altemail Newspaper
- 23.Gun Radio-TV
- 24.Democratic Free Women's Movement
- 25.Peace Mothers' Initiative
- 26.Seliu Women's Association
- 27.Kardelen Women's House
- 28.Bajlar Women's Cooperative
- 29.Hêviya Jinê Periodical
- 30.Ceren Women's Association
- 31.Meja Women's Center
- 32.Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality - Center for Research and Application on Women's Issues (DEKASUM)
- 33.Center for Psychological Training and Consulting (EPIDEM)
- 34.New Life Women's Center - Lice
- 35.Daylight Center for Assistance and Solidarity
- 36.Art-Everywhere Organization
- 37.Kurdish Institute
- 38.Kurdish Association
- 39.Education and Science Labour Union (Egitim-Sen)
- 40.Health and Social Services Labour Union (SES)
- 41.Union of Public Labour in Energy, Industry and Mining (ESM)
- 42.United Trade Union of Transport Workers
- 43.Union of Public Workers in Roadworks, Construction,Infrastructure, Deed and Cadastre
- 44.Union of Office Workers (BES)
- 45.Union of Communication (Haber-Sen)
- 46.Union of Religious Foundation Workers - DİVES
- 47.Union of Agriculture and Forestry Service Branch Workers (Tirm Orkam-Sen)
- 48.Union of Municipality and Local Government Workers (Tüm Bel-Sen)
- 49.Union of Energy, Water, Gas Workers Turkey (Tev İş İ)
- 50.Union of Tobacco and Food Workers (Tek Gıda İş)
- 51.Union of Turkey General Service Workers - Diyarbakir Branch (Genel İş-Diyarbakir)
- 52.Union of Municipality Workers (Belediye-İş)
- 53.Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions of Turkey (DİSK)
- 54.Municipality Workers Association
- 55.Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB) - Diyarbakir Branch
- 56.City Council of Free and Equal Citizens of Diyarbakir
- 57.Council of Patriotic Democratic Youth
- 58.Association of Neighbourhood Councils of 5 Nisan, Hacırlı, Şeyh Şamil, Seyranterpe, Kayranterpe and Mevlana Halit
- 59.Federation of the Elected Heads of Neighbourhoods of Diyarbakir
- 60.Cooperative of Diyarbakir Craftsmen and Artisans
- 61.Social Education and Research Association - TEV-DER
- 62.Local Agenda 21 - Diyarbakir
- 63.Patriotic Youth Periodical
- 64.Yekta Youth Cultural Center
- 65.Tigris Periodical
- 66.Doğur Halk Periodical
- 67.Firat - Distribution Company
- 68.Cilo Mountain Association
- 69.Manzur Protection Board
- 70.Alliansi Initiative Group



71. Doğubeyazıt Women's Cooperative
72. Kızıltepe Women's Cooperative
73. Pyramid - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Transvestite Initiative - Diyarbakır
74. Rainbow Women's Association
75. Batman Selis Women's Association
76. Women's Cooperative of Bostancı - BİKAD
77. Kafkas University Students Association (KAUDER)
78. Roj Ava Youth Cultural Center - Ankara
79. Muğla University Administrative and Economic Sciences Faculty Students Association
80. Adıyaman University Students Association
81. Mustafa Kemal University Students Association
82. Hêvi Youth Cultural Center
83. Van University Students Association (YÖDER)
84. Ahura Periodical - Van
85. Dicle University Students Association (DUO-DER)
86. Tirîjen Amara Periodical - Van
87. Şeval Youth Association - Iğdır
88. Akdeniz Cultural Center
89. Ada Cultural Center
90. Anka Cultural Center
91. Avasin Cultural Center
92. Botan Cultural Center
93. Bahar Cultural Center
94. Cilo Gezer Cultural Center
95. Mardin Cultural Center
96. Mesopotamia Cultural Center
97. Mem û Zîn Cultural Center
98. Serhat Cultural Center
99. Ufa Cultural Center
100. Viranşehir Cultural Center
101. Dicle-Fırat Cultural Center
102. Adana Seyhan Küçük Dikili Municipality
103. Adana Yüreğir Yakapınar Municipality
104. Ağrı Doğubeyazıt Municipality
105. Aydın Merkez Ovaeymiş Municipality
106. Batman Municipality
107. Batman Beşiri Municipality
108. Batman Gercüş Municipality
109. Batman Kozluk Bekirhan Municipality
110. Batman Merkez Balpınar Municipality
111. Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality
112. Diyarbakır Bağlar Municipality
113. Diyarbakır Kayapınar Municipality
114. Diyarbakır Yenişehir Municipality
115. Diyarbakır Suruç Municipality
116. Diyarbakır Silvan Municipality
117. Diyarbakır Silvan Bayrambaşı Municipality
118. Diyarbakır Lice Municipality
119. Diyarbakır Ergani Municipality
120. Diyarbakır Dicle Municipality
121. Diyarbakır Kocaköy Municipality
122. Diyarbakır Bismil Municipality
123. Hakkari Municipality
124. Hakkari Şemdinli Municipality
125. Hakkari Yüksekova Municipality
126. Hakkari Yüksekova Esendere Municipality
127. Iğdır Merkez Hoşhaber Municipality
128. Kars Diğer Dağınar Municipality
129. Konya Çiğirbeyli Gözyazı Municipality
130. Mardin Dargeçit Municipality
131. Mardin Kızıltepe Municipality
132. Mardin Kızıltepe Şenyurt Municipality
133. Mardin Mazıdağ Municipality
134. Mardin Center Yalın Municipality
135. Mardin Nusaybin Municipality
136. Mardin Savur Sığırcı Municipality
137. Muş Bulancık Municipality
138. Muş Malazgirt Municipality
139. Muş Malazgirt Güllüce Municipality
140. Muş Varto Municipality

141. Siirt Kurtulan Municipality
142. Siirt Merkez Gökçebağ Municipality
143. Şırnak Municipality
144. Şırnak Beytüşebap Municipality
145. Şırnak Cizre Municipality
146. Şırnak İdli Municipality
147. Şırnak Silopi Municipality
148. Tunceli Municipality
149. Urfa Ceylanpınar Municipality
150. Urfa Halfeti Yükseköğlülük Municipality
151. Urfa Suruç Municipality
152. Urfa Viranşehir Municipality
153. Van Bostancı Municipality
154. Democratic Society Party
155. Labour Party
156. Revolutionary Socialist Workers Party
157. Workers Movement Party
158. Socialist Democracy Party
159. Socialist Platform of the Oppressed
160. Peace and Democracy Party
161. Green Party of Turkey
162. Oktay Kınıyar
163. E. Ezri Elbistan Yıldırım
164. Sultan Topbaş
165. Şehadet Tuncel
166. Abdullah Demirbaş
167. Gökhan Biçici
168. Ferhat Berkpınar
169. Demir Kızılkayın





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