

PLACES – BODIES – BORDERS

Three words to try to outline and weave together an idea of internationalism that, in order to become concrete, need to give meaning to what we are, within and through the places we inhabit. Driven by this tension, we are organizing a three-day camp in Salento, the southern border of Fortress Europe, in an attempt to foster this perspective through meetings and debates. Because we believe that fighting against colonization and capitalist plunder necessarily entails observing places as complex organisms, composed of human and non-human elements that move through space and time, resisting or bending under pressure from outside. Just as our bodies do.

We have witnessed the upheaval of the territory in which we live under the violence of the logic of the State and the Market: reduced to a dumping ground for the waste of major European industry, depopulated by employment blackmail, distorted by energy and military infrastructures, and now sold off on the tourism market. The fact that this is an old story, and not only ours, does not lead us to consoling resignation; rather, it encourages us to seek complicity across and beyond that limes inhabited by others like us.

We know that colonialism, repression, and exploitation can take very different forms and intensities, even to the point of genocide and ecocide. But we also know that there is much that unites us, because the border—made to divide—is still a place where one can also stand face to face, in a dialogical stance.

Rootedness and a willingness to move have enabled the development of a capacity for sharing that we would like to experience through the concrete reality of encounter. Over the three days, talks and debates, presentations, and excursions to explore the surrounding area will follow one another.

We will discuss about practices of struggle, but also about subsistence and resistance, forms of organization and ways of understanding our existence in the present.

We will present an antimilitarist journal produced in Italy, which looks from an internationalist perspective at practices of insubordination, defeatism and sabotage of the war machine. In continuity with this theme, we will discuss the Mediterranean space as a space of war, with particular reference to migration routes and the city of Taranto as an outpost of military control.

We will talk about the land and the work that binds it to men and women in the past and present of the territories we inhabit: the resistance of peasants through revolt against the usurpation and expropriation of their means of subsistence; the condition of agricultural labor today, under the pressure exerted by industry for large-scale distribution.

We will talk about tourism as an industry of profit extraction, comparing the different realities of our territories and discussing the perspectives we are able to envision.

We will discuss the border as a place of possibility: a hinge that brings communities face to face, as in the organization of “ecoregions” such as the pre-modern Occitan one, in which

the Western Alps were a fertile site of encounter. Also, the border as a place to be crossed, a space of suspension and danger, where solidarity and organization are essential: we will discuss this with a comrade active on the border between Poland and Belarus.

And further, the border as a space of communication and organization among margins—a topic that will be introduced through the presentation of the collective work “Les peuples veulent,” a small but illuminating book that, in some way, inspired and energized the organization of this gathering.

The three-day event will be hosted at a fully equipped campsite, about 5 kilometers from the Ionian Sea, entirely self-managed and self-funded.

We therefore need to know the number of participants as soon as possible.

For this purpose, please email us to maisiaturista@riseup.net

For more information, follow our blog (updated regularly):
<https://luoghicorpifrontiere.noblogs.org/>

More details about the program will follow shortly.