

Paris and COP 21:

More of the same, false solutions and covering power to corporations ... Before that, the answer resistance and organization, the real solutions are the people.

We talked with Jorge Tadeo Vargas of Mexico, who from his organization *Research Laboratory in Community Development and Sustainability in Mexico* is part of the network since its inception.

JT: From our organization we are working on important documents such as the changes that have been taking place mainly in Mexico, which are marked on a new policy of structural reforms, which seeks to give more power to transnational corporations, gives much more power the countries of the global north over our territories in the south, and enabling them to take possession of common property: privatizing the territories and thereby further increase all the problems of social and environmental justice in our countries.

So we worked on these issues that are demarcated in a struggle and resistance globally.

JS / A: What can you share us about the COP 21 and the agreement of Paris?

JT: Despite all attempts to hide the true intentions that occurred with the signing of this new agreement, what we see is that ends up strengthening carbon markets as a practice to maintain the hegemony of a production and consumption model that is hitting the countries, communities, generating a series of impacts.

This agreement leaves out issues related to human rights, at least the few achievements that in this respect, strengthening thereby corporations. It has been also lost the gender perspective that had, although it was not fulfilled calmly, but what it had, has left out of the agreement.

From our perspective, carbon markets need not exist. It cannot keep thinking that the production model of consumption will find a solution to the climate crisis when they only want those who are producing.

The governments of the global North, with all the complicity of many Southern governments, have given us another blow, by continuing this hegemony that supports a production model of consumption that keeps us in a permanent social and environmental crisis and will generate and increase the social and ecological debts, that for years we have been paying to the southern countries.

JS / A: What changes could involve the agreement of Paris, for national legal frameworks?

JT: This new agreement that is talking about a new regulatory framework of the countries, it's about individual commitments by countries in terms of reducing

greenhouse gases; it arises mitigation models that are also global, where the communities have no type of incident, for them there is no chance to start acting in relation to an adaptation to the climate crisis that we have raised above.

It is a vision that leaves out the communities as protagonists of their own adaptation models knowledge-based of their own territory, even if we consider that these adaptation measures, can simultaneously work as a measure of mitigation.

For us it is a trade agreement which seeks to ensure the continuation of all the false solutions, and thus strengthen a production and consumption model, leaving out the own protagonists creating models of adaptation, mitigation, that are the communities, in if this conference of the Parties, as well as the previous one talks about solutions that must come from above.

JSA: What other elements have been negotiated?

JT: We have tried to include what they call transition fuels, which is the case of fracking (hydraulic fracturing), also, the climate-smart agriculture, blue carbon, forests; in fact forests production is becoming increasingly more oriented to the agro fuel production.

The strategy is to lower the profile to everything that has to do with monocultures, but actually is still present. There has not been a significant change, what has been raised is what they call transition fuels, fracking, some issues that have to do with renewable energy, but that is still maintained within the same energy matrix, as in the case of wind energy, solar energy, which still maintain this centralized energy matrix in the expropriation of strategic commons and privatization of them.

This type of model is betting precisely to seek leave the fossil fuel, not so much by the impacts it generates, but because it is entering in a peak, is no longer economically sustainable for the same model and are looking at other types of energy production, other raw material production to continue with the same production system and excessive consumption.

JS / A: What relationship between FTAs and climate negotiations do you see?

JT: If we look twenty years ago, the environmental issue was not included within the free trade agreements, but the same progress of the global crisis, which is caused by the devastating extraction of resources, common goods, natural goods has been also doing that the same system realizes that the socio-environmental issue is an important part, but not for its care or conservation, not to respect the dynamics that communities have and the relationship of them with environmental surroundings, but quite the contrary.

This is how in recent years, the environmental issue is included in trade agreements, in order to be giving way to the privatization process of these common

goods, that generate to corporations and capital, economic benefits, and on the other hand generate an environmental cost to communities.

We have been able to see that in these trade agreements or cooperation agreements there is an orientation to end the organizational forms that exist in communities, in the interest of ensuring the processes of privatization and extraction of common goods, this represents a direct blow to the territories.

In Mexico, after 20 years of FTA with Canada and USA, we have seen how it has progressed the specialization within the free trade agreements to include environmental issues, although they change the name, that is, the system has been polishing the forms of inclusion to draw any advantage or benefit.

That we are seeing right now with the TPP (Trans-Pacific Economic Cooperation Agreement) which is to be signed. In this agreement there are some countries involved both north and south and we are making it clear that environmental issues are being included as a form of ensure ownership of the territories and assets of nature. What is sought is to keep the production model of consumption to continue with the hegemony.

JS / A: What you can share us in the case of Mexico?

JT: Regarding what is happening in Mexico I think it's a glance at what's happening globally in many of our countries, there is indeed a very clear intention by the government, to disappear any kind of resistance, to criminalize, to murder, to arrest any dissenting voices that are speaking for the rights of indigenous communities, for the rights of nature, for the same human rights that are being constantly violated and are being constantly beaten.

In the country a supposed war against organized crime is being given, where actually, the ones being most affected are the communities that are somehow organizing to resist these impacts of consumption model, fighting against the territories appropriation that continue to generate new social, ecological and environmental debts.

What we observe is precisely this as the state, the government is playing the role of the armed wing of corporations, which are being carried and privatizing all resources, natural goods and generating all socio-environmental costs in the populations.

We are seeing, as there are more and more militarization by the government within communities that are resisting, as there are more and more complicity between these groups of organized crime, that the government claims to fight and the government itself, to hit any movement that present a dissenting voice. And this is reflected precisely in these new trade agreements, which are designed at strengthening the corporations, which are designed at strengthening this whole model and that any resistance will be criminalized, it will be stopped by any media.

JS / A: What closing message do you want to share?

JT: Well, even though the panorama is not very clear, and we see this increase in violent repression, criminalization of social movements, this is mainly because there are more and more organizations, more communities that are resisting at this.

The call is just to maintain the fight, keep in touch, maintain in resistance, in defense of our territories, human rights, Mother Earth because this is what will give us the possibility to reach a good end.

We cannot allow governments, corporations continue to dictate policies to where we have to move. I think there are many communities worldwide, at the level of Mexico, that are working by the defense for territory, for the land, because our rights come to a good end and, although the path is not as clear, although there is more and more repression, this is mainly because there is also an increase in resistance. Therefore maintain the resistance, let us keep standing.

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