

# ecosprinter

newsletter of the federation of young european greens



## fyeg editorial

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ecosprinter is the newsletter of the federation of young european greens (fyeg)

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*"If I accept you as you are, I will make you worse; however if I treat you as though you are what you are capable of becoming, I help you become that."*  
Goethe

I had to change this editorial several times as the Iraqi situation has changed and deteriorated rapidly. Early this morning the pre-battle stage 'Operation Iraqi Freedom' has started and Baghdad military targets have been hit...all in the best of international interest. In the press conference, George Bush said that the coalition is made up of 35 countries. The play with words about morality and war in the same sentence is very disconcerting. Is this a moral war for Bush and a holy war, a Jihad, according to Hussein? Chirac said that he disapproved that the attacks started without the United Nations approval. Schroeder said that that war was the wrong decision. The divide on this issue within the European Union countries is worrying. What about the extensive environmental damage that is being incurred? ► It has been a hectic month for Malta to say the least as we were in the throws of a heavy campaign for a referendum concerning the accession in

the European Union. The party in Government (Nationalist) wants to join the EU while the party in Opposition (Socialist) wants only to have some form of agreement with the EU, what is being referred to as a 'partnership'. As Malta is politically heavily polarised, the campaign was aggressive. The result was 53.1% voting for accession in the European Union although according to Labour Party, this result is open for interpretation. We had our local council elections as well and the Greens did very well by electing 3 candidates. Well done and keep up the momentum! On the 12th of April, Malta will have the general elections which will seal the result of the referendum. We are living in exciting times! ► During the general assembly of FYEG 2002, some of you emphasised the importance of political discussions within the organisation. I urge all of you to give your feedback so we will have a newsletter which we are



all proud of. In this edition you will find FYEG's statement about the Iraqi war. We urge you to continue giving your support in the various actions that are taking place. Our regular articolist Bianca Zammit wrote about human trafficking. Ska and Christian from Gruene Jugend and Josephine gave us a clear picture of what happened in their GA. In this edition we will meet DEM Youth and also we get to know a little better Simo Salmela. A much awaited article was written by Michel Smicht which deals with Henry Kissinger. I hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the ecosprinter as much as I enjoyed preparing it!

by natalie debono

### fyeg campaign 2003-2004: migration

Preparation Team Meeting for migration and Multiculturalism campaign  
27.2.-3.3.2003 Potsdam

### destination europe

## TEAR DOWN THE WALLS IN YOUR HEAD!

As it was mentioned in the last issue of "Ecosprinter", the Migration Campaign is going to be the main topic in the agenda of FYEG this year. The idea evolved from the summer camp 2002 in Topola, Serbia. Some people continued working on the issue and now we can declare that the Migration Campaign is on its way to become FYEG's most successful and the best campaign ever!

by ska

continued on page 2



On the Federative Council in Ghent a lot of member organisations expressed their interest in participating in the campaign and started working on different ideas. By the end of 2002 several concepts started forming. A few months later, ten young women and men from all over Europe applied to be members of a preparation team and we packed our sleeping bags in order to depart for the first prep team meeting. This first meeting took place in Potsdam, Germany at the end of February 2003.

Although there were some problems related to the visas, we were very motivated and enthusiastic about being a part of such an important item in the history of FYEG. We started the meeting on Thursday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of February in the house of the Greens in Brandenburg which served also as our accommodation. We started with a detailed introduction round where we got to know each other's experiences in working with migration topics.. We were glad that we already had a good basis of theoretical knowledge and practical experience; this can be a great advantage for the project! To expand our knowledge we organised two workshops: the first one was about the situation in Serbia and especially in Kosovo which was facilitated by Milan. For the European point of view, we invited Elisabeth Schroedter who is a green member of the European Parliament. She reported on the situation in Central and Eastern Europe and the consequences related to the EU-Enlargement in summer 2004 as well as on the asylum policy of the EU and European agreements like Schengen Catalogue and Dublin Contract. She underlined that it would be very important to work on issues like migration, because there's almost no interest among civil society and governments.

With the help of that theoretical background we started debating on the goals of our campaign, the target group and the main themes we're going to deal with. We agreed that our main topic should be freedom of movement. We're going to focus on young people but not only on greens, because we mainly want to raise awareness and make people think about what's going on. We have to inform them so that they can get active. The campaign basically depends on three steps:

1. **informing ourselves.** This can be done in seminars, learning groups and with spreading information via email.
2. **informing the others.** With the help of our web-site [www.openborders.org](http://www.openborders.org), seminars and information material, we're going to spread information as much as possible. To make people curious and interested in our campaign and willing to learn more, we're going to carry out a lot of actions in public like imprisoning ourselves, reclaiming a town as "free movement area" or relocating borders. This item includes a kind of lobbying politicians as well as governmental and governmental groups in favour for refugees and a human point of view on the "case" of migrants.
3. **get people active!** When people raise their knowledge about current policies they will hopefully notice that the current situation has to be changed. It's our task to channel their need for activity. We're going to have a forum on our web-site where people can talk about their experiences and exchange information and we're going to set up a suitcase that shall circulate all over Europe in which every participating group shall put something related to their country and action. We're going to give practical advice about what everyone can do. We're calling for the participation of everyone who realises that we really need a change now!

Furthermore, we're planning to do a detailed documentary of the campaign with articles, pictures and a movie, so that we will be able to enjoy our successful campaign in future times but also to encourage others to follow our example.

But we weren't only working all day. We had a lot of fun in Potsdam and Berlin (although we had some troubles with the public transport – actually it's not as punctual as you might expect) and we feel very motivated to struggle for our campaign in the next year. Even though the campaign itself will only start in September 2003 a lot of preparation work has to be done in advance.

**As you can see the campaign is nothing without YOUR support, without YOU getting active and without YOUR creative ideas! So feel free to contact the prep team and try to get your organisation involved!**

We thank Hiltrud Breyer (MEP) for her financial support. Without her, our prep meeting wouldn't have been possible!

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by panu laturi

In the elections for the Finnish parliament on 16 March, the Greens League increased its seats from 11 to 14 (8,0% of votes, 28 000 new votes). This is a victory for the party: we were able to grow from the category of around 10 seats (the result in the three previous elections 1991, 1995 and 1999), to a party of almost 15 seats.

The three new seats are

- 1) in Uusimaa district: Ms. Heidi Hautala (MEP, huge 12 000 personal votes in her district)
- 2) in Pirkanmaa (Tampere) Ms. Rosa Meriläinen (deputy spokesperson of the party, former delegate for EFGP Council)
- 3) in Northern Carelia Ms. Tarja Cronberg (first Green seat from the Easter part of the country, very important!)

Our parliament group consists now of three men and eleven women, there are four newcomers.

The sad news is that we were expecting a new 5th seat from Helsinki but we were not able to keep the 23,5% support of local elections in 2000 and the position of the second biggest party of the capital but had to satisfy with 18% and 4 MPs. This was mainly due to the ability of the Social democrats to get their supporters to vote - local elections of 2000 was a total disaster for them.

The election results of all parties are: (results of 1999 as comparison)			
Party	Percentages	Seats	Votes
Centre Party	24,7 % (+2,3 %)	55 seats (+7 seats)	689 147 votes (+ 88 555 votes)
SDP	24,5 % (+1,6 %)	53 seats (+2 seats)	682 819 votes (+ 69856 votes)
Conservatives	18,5 % (-2,5 %)	40 seats (-6 seats)	517 171 votes (- 46 664 votes)
Left Alliance	9,9 % (-1,0 %)	19 seats (-1 seats)	276 756 votes (-14919 votes)
The Greens	8,0 % (+0,7 %)	14 seats (+3 seats)	223 267 votes (+28421 votes)
Christian Democrats	5,3 % (+1,2 %)	7 seats (-3 seats)	148 965 votes (+37130 votes)
Swedish Peoples Party	4,6 % (-0,5 %)	8 seats (-3 seats)	128 617 votes (-8713 votes)
True Finns	1,6 % (+0,6 %)	3 seats (+2 seats)	43 791 votes (+17351 votes)

The opposition party, the Centre party, won the elections: they got 7 new seats and they are now the biggest party. This means that they will lead the negotiations to build the new government. Also the party of the present social democrat Prime minister Paavo Lipponen, SDP, increased its support, but only with two seats, and it is the second biggest party now. The Conservatives lost 7 seats. They are more and less out of the game now, unless the SDP and the Centre are unable to come to an agreement about the government coalition and a programme. (There are three main parties in Finland, SDP, Conservatives and the Centre, two of which always form the coalition, one in opposition.)

We don't know yet if the Greens can take part in the government negotiations.

The Centre party and SDP have alone the majority in the parliament, but for sure they will take 2-3 other parties into the coalition. If the Greens are in that group remains to be seen. We have expressed our interest in participating.

The Green campaign suffered from a serious attack on us by the media and the other parties on drug policy. We had great difficulties in bringing up our own themes - the drug policy was not on our list!! - and the whole party suffered severely from the radical statements and actions of a handful of Green candidates. We estimate that 1-2 seats were lost because of this episode, but we were expecting much worse!

The election campaign in the media focused very much on the question of who will be the next prime minister after the 8 years' rule of the SDP. The challenger was the Centre party with a new female face as the party leader, since the spokesperson of the Conservative party was not seen as a credible option. As a result of this media campaign, these two parties with a potential Prime minister gained new seats while all other parties - EXCEPT the Greens - lost some. It will be interesting to study who were the new Green voters - and if we can win back those old supporters who left us because of the drug episode.

Panu Laturi  
Spokesperson FYEG  
Campaign Manager  
The Green League of Finland

# human trafficking

by bianca zammit



Children: victims of human trafficking

**... the experience of being in a foreign country where people do not understand one's language is a very alienating condition and many times these women succumb to the orders they are given. This nightmare is increased by the further rape, abuse and torture...**

Human trafficking, a term used to define a situation where people including children are tricked, forced or threatened in order to be transported to other parts of that country or another country all together where they are coerced to work in factories or enter the sex trade. Those destined for factories become imprisoned with no compensation for their la-

bour and become victims of an irrational schedule that allows very little time to rest. Human trafficking uses the same methods that were used in the slave trade. It is difficult to know for certain the amount of people that are trafficked each year but the United States government estimates that at least 700,000 women and children. In Bangladesh traffickers trick parents by promis-

ing a bright future for their children with job opportunities and marriage but in reality they are taken to India and Pakistan and forced into prostitution. Those women that manage to escape are detained by government officials to "protect" them. They are usually put in cells with criminals and these leads to further personal aggravation. Those women that reach their

families are greeted with disappointment and shame due to their prostitution and the importance of family honor in these countries leads them to become social outcasts with any possibility of recovery from the trauma experienced extremely difficult. In 2000 the government passed a law that made trafficking illegal with harsh penalties but this law remains to be implemented effectively. Up to now police either ig-

nored accusations regarding trafficking or are themselves part of this business.

In Russia, promising advertisements about stable job and career opportunities abroad are used as traps so that once the women that apply reach their destination they are immediately forced into prostitution. The experience of being in a foreign country where people do not understand one's language is a very alien-

ating condition and many times these women succumb to the orders they are given. This nightmare is increased by the further rape, abuse and torture these women are subjected to by the traffickers. If men are trafficked these are forced into agricultural or construction work with no pay. Some horrendous circumstances state that the trafficked victims must repay their traffickers the whole

cost of transportation. If a victims manages to escape and return home there are no services that can aid the victim and have to face the turmoil on their own. In Russia there is no law against trafficking and cases are rarely taken into consideration. Similar above experiences are shared also in Japan where activists calculated that Yen 4 Trillion (\$400 million) a year is made out of traf-

ficking. In Japan there are no laws against trafficking and traffickers are penalized in accordance with the prostitution or immigration laws. In 1999, 127 sex slaves were freed by police officials, the traffickers being charged with trafficking. However, such incidents remain the exception rather than the rule. It is important that all governments introduce into the laws a clear definition of

trafficking and a prohibition in any form of exploitation. The measures must be consistent with the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. Police officials must be trained on how to recognize trafficking and how to treat it, including how to help the victims.

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## brutal reaction of spanish government against demonstrators

by ignacio botella alarcón

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2003, we were witnesses of the brutal reaction of police against demonstrators in Madrid with clubs, rubber balls and even gas. On one of the televisions that was on site, "Localia", it was showing just incredible images about the brutal and nonsense reaction against the demonstration and just to give you a picture I'll explain one of them.

At first, we could see a group of people on their knees assisting a girl that lay bloodying on the street, some of them asking for help, some helping her and at just four meters, the anti-riot police doing nothing but watching. Then a girl in the group stands up and gets her mobile

out, she looks like is going to call the ambulance. At that moment both the policeman and the girl seemed to talk and the expression on the girl's face was like she was explaining something (the policeman had his face covered with his helmet) and then this police started talking to her. Real slowly, actually he looked like he is going to help her and then, without any warning, the policeman hit her with his club and the girl fell unconscious in the street.

After that and many other episodes the government is still saying that the police were acting with proportional measures and it also serves as a warning to peaceful

citizens so they don't participate in any demonstrations. Their excuse is that there are "conspirator groups" inside these demonstrations and that they may possibly be involved in repression of police activities.

I only can say that freedom is something that myself and thousands of other peaceful citizens are not willing to lose because of threats and we are ready to demonstrate again.

**NO A LA GUERRA  
NO TO WAR**

## yenicag newspaper under police investigation allegedly for the crime of insulting the military

by murat kanatli

### CYPRUS ALTERNATIVE NEWS

The Turkish Cypriot police started an investigation against Yenicağ Newspaper on the 21st of March 2003, a weekly published in the northern part of Cyprus. The pretext of police for the investigation is a news item published on the 18th of May 2001. The Investigation claims that Yenicağ Newspaper has committed the crime of causing the people of turning away and getting distant from military and the military service, as well as insulting the Turkish Cypriot Armed Forces. Murat Kanatli, Chief Editor of Yenicağ and the ex secretary general of Patriotic Unity Movement (YBH) came under police investigation for allegedly committing these crimes. Yenicağ Newspaper is the weekly newspaper of YBH.

The alleged crimes come under the Military Crimes and Punishments Law in force in the northern part of Cyprus.

### THE NEWS

The news published on the 18th of May 2001 was a statement by the YBH Youth Executive Council. YBH Youth had criticised the regime of taking secondary school children to military camps on the 16th of May 2001 and said that the regime was trying to create a more obedient generation by brainwashing them and by crushing them psychologically in front of military power. The text of the statement and photos can be found at the following link:

<http://www.yenicag-net.com/ybhgenclik/ogrenci>

### THE STATEMENT

In the statement YBH Youth had said that at a period when international pressure was mounting for the solution of the Cyprus problem, the regime was trying to take youth under pressure and was forcing the youth to be more obedient to the system by brainwashing operations. YBH Youth calls on the reactionary military and chauvinist system in education to be changed immediately and states that conditions for a contemporary, participatory and scientific education is a must for the contemporary, pluralistic life. YBH Youth finds the intervention of the military to the civil life unacceptable and calls on all progressive, patriotic youth to struggle against these interventions.

# dealing with EU enlargement and iraq sanctions in berlin

by christian beck

The working group "Europe and International issues" of the German Green Youth met on the 21st till 23rd February in Berlin to discuss the EU enlargement, the Convention on a European Constitution and the sanctions on Iraq.

The representatives of the Polish and the Hungarian embassy were self confident and (too) positive thinking as they looked forward to the enlargement. They said that the main reason for not being already part of the EU was because of their leaders and not because of their economic situation. The EU demanded competencies of them e.g. for the contact to eastern-European neighbours. Not very sympathetic: Concerning the presidency of the Union they hope for the old system of rotation instead of something modern with a more important role of the parliament. Of course it is difficult for them to give up the sovereignty they gained so short before.

Concerning labour migration they support the position of FYEG: They said that wages and living standards should be developed so well that nobody would want to leave their countries. If anybody wanted to leave, they would already have done so. That is very good to say if not a professor from Frankfurt had told us only hours later that the economic criteria are only hardly fulfilled by the candidate countries. It will take more than just a few years until the EU standards will be reached. Concerning the economic situation he may be right. Concerning migration, the language barriers and the lack of good and well-paid jobs in East Germany will support what our Polish guest said.

In the case of the Iraq war, we see an immediate need to change the system of sanctions on Iraq. The actual system functioned well in hindering Iraq to buy new weapons but they also let civilians especially children starve to death. What should we do? The lists of sanctioned goods must be limited and restrained more on weapons and less on civilian goods needed e.g. for agriculture. It would also be helpful if there is a control in the weapon trade, not only where they are bought but especially where they are produced. Regards biological weapons a treaty for control is still needed, and regards chemical weapons better controls must be fixed.

For more information about these or other issues contact Christian Beck at [christian.beck@berlin.de](mailto:christian.beck@berlin.de)

## what's happening around...

### tongtana challenge

Applications from international youth aged 14-18 are sought for an extraordinary adventure challenge in Canada. In July 2003, international youth aged 14-18 will come together in the rainforests of British Columbia, Canada for the first-ever TONGTANA CHALLENGE. They will participate in a series of physical and mental challenges, zany games, drama skits, workshops, and creative endeavours in a thrilling two-week competition between teams. Tongtana Challengers will compete and live on sandy beaches, in towering rainforests, in small coastal towns, and on boats. Throughout the adventure, scientists, First Nations people and educators will lead workshops on global issues such as forest protection, sustainable development, cultural preservation, conflict resolution, climate change, poverty and human rights. The teams will be presented with challenges that relate to the themes explored in these workshops. Their performance in these challenges will determine their handicaps or advantages in the various physical obstacle courses and creative tasks that they will race to complete. What does building sand sculptures have to do with global climate change? What is the connection between international conflicts and kayaking blindfolded? Can the world's human population fit into a shopping cart? The Tongtana Challengers will find out! Information and applications for Tongtana Challenge are available on-line at [www.lifeweb.org](http://www.lifeweb.org)



our mission: the planet earth is our home



## let us meet... the ecologists' movement of macedonia – youth (DEM–Youth)

The Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia - DEM is a non-governmental, non-profitable and apolitical association. It is a national association that includes 30 local environmental NGOs as full-members and 16 other organizations and institutions as associated members. It was established in 1990 as a necessity to coordinate the work of the existing local groups. We are members of the Friends of the Earth - International (FoEI) and International Union for Conservation of Nature. Also, we have a good cooperation and communication with many neighbours' NGOs.

From December 1994 each local member group of DEM formed their own youth clubs. On 25-th of November 1995 youth clubs formed a youth brunch of DEM, as a DEM-Youth. Since than lots of actions have been taken by the young ecologists. DEM - Youth objective is to raise youth awareness concerning environmental protection, sustainable development, and preservation of nature at the lowest level of destruction.

DEM -Youth activities: public protests against the air pollution, cycle races, anti-nuclear protests, protests against waste disposal, clean-up actions in different places in Macedonia, Campaign for National Park "Mavrovo", Climate Campaign, summer working and educational camps, work-shops, SEEYN conference, street theatres, exhibitions etc.

Every year DEM – Youth is organizing work camps in Macedonia and in the last years there were international camps too. The first work camp was organized in 1995 like "Matka '95", and then there were "Pesna '97", "Lesnovo '98", "Ilinska crkva '99", "Plavica 2001/02" and "Breza 2000", "Pelister 2001/02", "Ohrid 2002", "Pretor 2002" that were international work camps. The local youth clubs members of DEM – Youth traditionally are organizing these camps: "Plavica", "Pelister", "Matejce", "Plackovica" and "Matka". The work camps are organized in two parts: work part and a part for education. In the first part the young people make tables, benches, garbage baskets and they are cleaning the environment. In the second part they have a possibility to take part in different kind of workshops.

Also, DEM – Youth as a member of SEEYN works on voluntary exchange in the region and till now we have exchanged 6 long-term volunteers. One of the biggest projects of this network was "SEE Youth towards Johannesburg", organizing Eco bus tour through South East Europe, where DEM – Youth was a responsible for Macedonian part of the project. DEM - Youth is a member of FYEG (Federation of Young European greens), South East European Youth Network (SEEYN), EYFA as a full member and YEE - Youth and Environment Europe as an associated member.

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## debate...

The US has brought no evidence that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction. Eleven weeks of inspections by the United Nations have still not brought any evidence, either. At the same time the unholy warmonger trinity, the US, UK and Australia, keep insisting that Iraq destroy its weapons of mass destruction. But when did rationality become a casualty in all this nonsense? How can one destroy something that one does not have? The Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz expressed similar incredulity in Rome last week.

Unfortunately this whole debate has taken a black or white spin. No room is left for any greys. As Bush put it, in his usual ineloquent manner, it is a fight of Good against Evil. As time passes it is becoming ever more evident who lies on the Evil side. Many of us have been taught that war is evil. Many in Europe still recall their efforts in stopping another dictator who came to power on his people's undisputed popular support. Although Bush cannot make such claims (after all the majority of the US electorate rejected Bush in the 2000 elections and anywhere else this would be deemed an undemocratic government), he however does seem to have the support of the majority of American people for the war - 60% in a recent poll. Not so for Blair and Howard who have 75% and 90% of their citizens respectively, opposing the war. At least Blair has recognised this opposition and is insisting in adhering to United Nations procedures. But Howard seems to be totally oblivious!

One reason President Bush recently gave the world for an attack on Iraq was, believe it or not, that he was getting impatient. Yes, President Bush is getting impatient, so we should brace ourselves for war!

Of course Bush is getting impatient. The support of the Americans for this war is declining as more cases of the administration's fabrications come to light, and as people become aware of the underlying agenda.

Ralph Nader, the Greens' US Presidential candidate in 2000, and currently the US Greens' leader, did not pull any punches when he accused the Bush administration of wanting to wage a war for its oil interests. In a recent statement he said: "The connections between the Bush administration and the oil industry are clear and pervasive. A remarkable 41 members of the administration have ties to the industry, and both the President and the Vice President are both former oil executives. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice is a former director of Chevron. President Bush took more than \$1.8 million in campaign contributions from the oil and gas industries in the 2000 election. The Bush people and the oil moguls do agree with one another in part because they are one another."

Nader goes on to blame the US administration's energy policy as it casts a growing dependency on oil as an inevitability, recommending "that the President make energy security a priority of our trade and foreign policy."

He adds: "The energy situation we have now is precarious. The United States currently consumes 19.5 million barrels a day, or 26% of daily global oil consumption. With just 2% of the world's proven reserves, the U.S. imports 9.8 million barrels a day, or more than half the oil we consume. Instead of remedying this dangerous dependence with increased fuel efficiency standards and other efficiency measures, the Vice President's national energy strategy propels the country down an even more perilous road that it says will require 17 million barrels of imports a day by 2020, lining the pockets of multinational oil companies while polluting the environment and committing the United States military to continued international hostilities."

Even the little evidence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction or its links with Al Qaeda, that the US has said it has, have turned out to be fabrications. The meeting between an Iraqi intelligence agent and Al Qaeda operative Muhammad Atta, ringleader of the 9/11 terror attacks, which allegedly occurred in Prague in April 2001, was a fabrication. The story that the aluminium tubes Iraq attempted to import were headed for its nuclear program was also a fabrication. Even American scientists and officials have admitted that the tubes were more suited to conventional weapons production.

# the US war for oil agenda

This of course is in line with previous patterns of deceit by the US Republican administrations. The story of Page 9  
the babies in Kuwaiti hospitals being pulled out of incubators on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was also a fabrication in preparation for Bush senior's 1991 war on Iraq. The woman that gave evidence on these alleged events was not a hospital staff in any Kuwaiti hospital, as was claimed, but was the daughter of the Kuwaiti ambassador in the US. She was trained by a US marketing firm to give a convincing performance!

How can anyone believe anything that the US brings as evidence, anymore?

France, Russia, China, Germany, and Belgium are among the countries that actively opposing the war on Iraq. France, Russia, and China's opposition is particularly important since all three hold veto power within the Security Council. If any one of them, let alone all three, votes against UN sanctioned military action on Iraq, the US will have only one road open to it if it wants to persist in this madness - unilateral attack on Iraq without UN sanction, possibly aided by the UK and Australia.

France, Germany and Belgium's resistance is also significant in terms of their membership in NATO. They have been resisting the deployment of military equipment to Turkey, in case it is attacked by Iraq. NATO was formed with the principle that an attack on one is an attack on all. However this was understood to be for defensive purposes. Since Turkey is allowing the US the use of bases on Turkish soil to launch its attack on Iraq, Turkey automatically becomes an accomplice in the aggression. Therefore an attack on Turkey by Iraq defending itself does not qualify for the automatic activation of the NATO treaty.

I must be clear, at this juncture, that the global anti-war movement is not anti-American people but anti-American policy, specifically the policy of the Bush administration. I must also point out that the opposition is not only to the war in Iraq, but also towards the US refusal to ratify important UN conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Criminal Court, the Kyoto Protocol on global climate change, the ban on the use of land mines - anything, it seems, that is progressive and that contributes to world peace!

It seems that the Republicans in government are totally uncomfortable in a peaceful world. They have to invent a war. Early on in his administration, Bush had his sights on China, and the world was bracing itself for a US/China showdown. Then 9/11 came along and, like a Presidential character in a Hollywood movie, and seemingly overwhelmed by his own importance, Bush declared his war on terrorism. The Democrats lost the plot and the Senate gave him overwhelming powers. Afghanistan was attacked, thousands of people killed and hundreds of prisoners taken and held in violation of their rights. This from the country that poses as the human rights policeman! Then his sights turned to his father's unfinished business in Iraq. Now there's talk of dealing with Iran. And of course there's North Korea, which has blatantly withdrawn from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty (and therefore there are much stronger grounds for military intervention there). One wonders who is next? When will the US warmongers be satisfied?

In the meantime Israel, which has repeatedly, blatantly and consistently defied UN resolutions, is never dealt with. Of course the Muslim communities are getting frustrated! Why does the UN so readily deal with US's foes but not its friends? Why are those innocent victims killed in the twin towers in New York accorded the recognition they truly deserve, but the thousands killed in the Palestinian struggle still await justice.

The global community is too aware and educated now, to allow the perpetuation of these double standards. Far too often the US has been allowed to apply two weights and two measures in its foreign relations, whether this is in matters of trade liberalisation, military affairs or human rights issues. The world seems to be saying: "No more". And not a moment too soon!

I now recall Francoise Ducros, the Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien's communications director who came to fame for calling Bush "a moron". She was sacked for that comment, but how right she was! Unfortunately Bush cannot be sacked and he still remains the world's most powerful leader.

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**YOU are invited to send your comments and opinions regarding this article to [natalie@fyeg.org](mailto:natalie@fyeg.org) so they can be featured in the next ecosprinter.**

# henry kissinger : peacemaker or war criminal?

**One major war criminal still walks free, says Michael Schmitt. But efforts to bring Henry Kissinger to justice are making headway.**

**“It was at that moment that satire died. There was nothing more to say after that.”** (The musical satirist Tom Lehrer, when Henry Kissinger won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973. Lehrer decided he could no longer perform.)

Henry Kissinger, former US state secretary, elder statesmen par excellence, coveted dinner guest, quick-witted public lecturer, widely-sought consultant and wise man of international relations, or pathological liar, pitiful and odious schlumpf and wanted war criminal?

Surely, this cannot be the same man. Hundreds of statesmen, businessmen, journalists worldwide as well as the honourable Nobel committee cannot be wrong about Kissinger's praiseworthiness. Are they in error, the plethora of journalists, human rights activists and researchers who have claimed to have compiled evidence for Kissinger's multifarious criminal record since he first came into office in 1969? Are Kissinger's critics misguided and confused agitators?

Let us examine the outrageous claim that Kissinger merits the label 'war criminal' and ought not to be incessantly consulted on realpolitik, but prosecuted for the version he practiced. A selection of the charges follows:

## **Bangladesh**

While the genocide against Bangladeshis was well underway, Kissinger and Nixon, willfully ignoring the warnings of US diplomats on the ground, assured the continuation of the flow of US arms to the bloodthirsty military regime of Pakistan.

## **Angola**

In 1975 the US intervened in Angola several months before Russian and Cuban troops entered the conflict area. Kissinger ordered the CIA to rewrite documents to justify his disastrous policy, claiming that the US intervention took place after the Russians and Cubans had arrived.

## **East Timor**

In the same year Kissinger and Ford visited General Suharto in Jakarta.

Recently declassified government documents prove what Kissinger denied in his rather silly and self-revealing memoirs: They gave the green light to Suharto's invasion of East Timor, and by implication approved of the ensuing genocide. In violation of US law, US weapons continued to flow to the Indonesian army while the death count mounted.

## **Chile**

Kissinger's role in the deliberate destabilization and eventual overthrow of Salvador Allende's government is well documented. His justification for this act of state terrorism par excellence: "I don't see why we need to stand by and watch a country go communist due to the irresponsibility of its own people."

## **Indochina/Vietnam**

The cruelty with which the US pursued the Vietnam war has been met with widespread criticism. With the notable exception of the infamous 'Christmas Bombing,' Kissinger's role in the prolongation, intensification and expansion of the war is less well known.

In interviews I always draw attention to and highlight the gravity of the bombings of Cambodia and Laos which resulted in several hundred thousand casualties. Kissinger has praised himself as the architect of the expansion of the Vietnam war into Cambodia and initiated the orders to intensify the bombings of Laos. In Cambodia, Kissinger's realpolitik led to the partial destruction of the fabric of society and paved the way for the seizure of power by the genocidal Khmer Rouge. More bombs were dropped on Laos than on Germany and Japan combined during World War II. Apart from the direct casualties, remnants of US cluster bombs have killed more than 11,000 Laotian civilians in the last twenty years.

In an interview a few years ago, Kissinger was asked: "What if the United States had allowed Vietnam to go communist after World War II?" The great man replied: "Wouldn't have mattered very



much. If the Vietnam domino had fallen then, no great loss."

No great loss.

The post-cold war 1990s were supposed to have ushered in the age of human rights and exposure of state officials as war criminals. I cannot but conclude that the striking feature of this purported human rights era was the highly selective perception of human rights violations and the respective perpetrators. Yes, General Pinochet was detained in London and

### **Quotations:**

Ninety percent of the politicians give the other ten percent a bad reputation.

The absence of alternatives clears the mind marvelously.

The nice thing about being a celebrity is that when you bore people, they think it's their fault.

The real distinction is between those who adapt their purposes to reality and those who seek to mold reality in the light of their purposes.

There cannot be a crisis next week; my schedule is already full.

University politics are vicious precisely because the stakes are so small.

almost handed over to Judge Baltazar Garçon in Spain on grounds of torture charges. Slobodan Milosevic was extradited to the ICTY in the Hague to face a trial for genocide and war crimes. But Henry Kissinger continues to saunter with impunity and his reputation remains unscathed.

# fyeg statement on iraq



This was the appeal to all the **Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG)** members to stand up against USA unilateral actions against Iraq.

The opposition against a new war in Iraq is growing and the 15<sup>th</sup> of February was marked by demonstrations in all European capitals and around the world. Many of our member organisations were present on this day for this action.

**The planned war against Iraq is threatening to destabilise the whole region and trigger a humanitarian and ecological catastrophe in an already volatile region. We are in a situation where the USA unilaterally or in alliance with European countries may decide to intervene in Iraq without putting forward the proper information on the true intentions for the war. The reasons may be various, ranging from terrorism to oil but the truth is that we are left in the dark. We are not informed of the full scale of the Bush administration's visions for the region. This alone is a strong enough reason to oppose the war. Any intervention must be based on international law and a broad political base not solely on the determination of the USA.**

## We say no in the name of international law and peace

- Therefore we call for an extension of the mandate for the UN weapons inspectors so that they are given adequate time and resources for a thorough completion of their mission.
- Diplomatic solution must be used in an attempt to de-escalate the rhetoric and defuse the conflict, as the recent Franco-German proposals.
- The Security Council must look at other options to war for holding Saddam Hussein to account for his disregard for human rights and international cooperation and a potential failure to comply with Resolution 1441. These include the use of "smart sanctions" targeted at the governmental elite.'
- Economic sanctions should be lifted because of their perverse consequences for the Iraqi people and their obvious ineffectiveness in achieving the goals they were set up to reach.



Alexandra Supper from Gaj Wien, Austria had sent a translation of their statement. This is an excerpt. If you want the whole translated statement, write to me. The original can be found on [www.gajwien.at](http://www.gajwien.at): The very first impression of yesterday's demonstration: a German flag. Second impression: an accumulation of Palestinian and Iraqi flags. Then the speeches start. Anti-american phrases, moral indignation, rhetorical elevation of the "new peace movement"; but no political analyses. Instead, a strong dash of conspiracy theory (Israel -> USA -> oil -> world domination). Not quite uncontradicted, but certainly dominating is a view that makes the enemies of our enemy (the USA) our friends. For example, the Green city councillor Susanne Jerusalem said that while "Saddam Hussein is an evil dictator", the bigger threat for "world peace" was currently Bush.

Markus Petz wrote that in Hyde Park, the feeling in the protest was more of humanity coming together, a United Nations of ordinary people (Jews against Zionism, Archaeologists Against War and Grannies too, showing the range of people involved). I personally saw many national flags (Welsh, Irish, English, Scottish, but also Brazilian, Swedish, Palestinian, Iraqi, Lebanese) although I saw no Union Flags (UK) and no Stars and Stripes (USA). Elsewhere Basque flags (seen at the gathering of the clans in Glasgow) and other nations who we share a grouping with in Europe under the Banner of the European Free Alliance were no doubt fluttering. As for who was on the march, I talked with Iraqis, Afghans, Italians, Pakistanis, French, Welsh, Irish, but no English :-)) and it was all summed up by the placard carried before a samba band - no borders, no nations no problems. Admittedly 1 in 20 inhabitants in London is an asylum seeker or a refugee and many many more would be unable to trace a pedigree of London origins back to exclusively Grandparents, but nevertheless there was a commonality which we all shared despite recognizing our national variety. We are peoples, but not nationalistic nations. This was paralleled by our speakers, whereby those from Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and Latin America spoke. And what did we call for in common? Stop the War.

Tamsin Lyons reported that Irish participation in the demonstration was excellent: Irish wishes for neutrality were reaffirmed on Saturday when over 150,000 protestors took to the streets in Dublin and towns all over Ireland. It was the biggest demonstration in Dublin since tax marches in the 1970s and saw the longest street in the capital entirely filled with people, banners and great atmosphere! The Greens joined other opposition political parties, community groups, schools, musicians, writers and even a group of 'pets for peace'. For most people this was their first time at a protest and they came along with their families and plenty of home made banners. Hopefully we made the government wake-up to true Irish feeling on this unjust war.



# find your green lifestyle!

## Campaigning in Germany

Two times a year the members of the GRUENE JUGEND (green youth) meet for the general assembly to debate on current issues, present new actions and have a great time together. The 20<sup>th</sup> federal assembly took place from March 8<sup>th</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup> 2003 in Muenster (Westfalia). The main topic of the weekend was the new campaign we're going to start this year on federal level. It's name is "project/lifestyle" and it mainly deals with consumers protection and being aware of the way you live and how it effects other human beings.

After the campaign was presented and officially accepted by the members we divided into several working groups to focus on some themes that are involved in the campaign; for instance GATS and its impact on our lives, biopiraterly, patents, agriculture and the question if there is a green lifestyle.

Furthermore, we had a debate on the war on Iraq and officially started a sponsorship campaign; you know: no money – no campaign. The federal board presented a future conception, we discussed a lot of proposals on information society, ecology... and on Saturday evening we had a great party with a local band. Unfortunately the party room was too small for all the young greens. But who could have expected 250 people to come??? This was actually our biggest congress and it seems like we're going to grow even more! Maybe we're not that wrong with our lifestyle...

Finally, a new federal board was elected: eight (more or less) new and motivated persons will lead the GRUENE JUGEND federal organisation for one year. ([www.gruene-jugend.de](http://www.gruene-jugend.de))

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Or maybe not. In June 2001, Kissinger was asked to Paris to award the UNESCO peace prize to the otherwise laudable Mary Robinson, then UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. During his stay in Paris, Kissinger was summoned by a French judge to answer questions concerning his knowledge of the 1970s Latin American governmental killer network 'Operation Condor.' He immediately departed and asked the US embassy to deal with this 'contemptible' attempt at interrogating him in the context of state-sponsored and US supervised terrorism. In October, a slim majority of right-wing MPs, in the Geneva Parliament rejected a resolution which would have called upon Swiss authorities to declare Kissinger persona non grata and to open investigations into his role in 'Operation Condor.'

'Condor se escribe con K' (Condor is spelled with a K), a Chilean friend and fellow campaigner likes to say. A group of victims and human rights activists in Chile filed a criminal complaint against Kissinger on September 11, 2001, the 28th anniversary of the US-sponsored overthrow of the democratically elected Allende government. On the preceding day, another promising legal action had been taken in Washington by the Family of General Rene Schneider, the Chilean General killed in 1970 on behalf of the CIA -- the supervising committee of which was chaired by National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger at the time. This was followed by a second suit in November 2002, alleging that Kissinger knowingly provided practical assistance and encouragement to the Chilean repressive regime before, during, and after the coup, with reckless disregard for the lives and well-being of the victims and their families. Both suits are based on the examination of declassified US government documents.

Activists in Ireland have tried to perform a citizens' arrests, and the British human rights lawyer Peter Tatchell tried to obtain an arrest warrant for Kissinger's Indochina crimes. Lawyers in various countries are currently examining national Universal Jurisdiction with respect to possible suits against Kissinger.

Even the opposition of the US to the recently established International Criminal Court is seen in the context of these efforts to bring Kissinger to justice. The New York Times (September 7, 2002) reported that: 'In the forefront of the Americans' minds are the continuing assertions from various quarters that Henry Kissinger, the former secretary of state, should be tried as a war criminal for his alleged actions in Indochina, Chile, Indonesia and Cyprus, all of which his spokesmen have dismissed out of hand.'

Increasingly irritated by the intransigent questioning of a growing number of journalists, the usually eloquent Kissinger reacts muttering to questions about his travel restriction in the light of Universal Jurisdiction laws in countries like Belgium: 'I am not a war criminal. I have conducted major negotiations.'

Millions of victims of Henry Kissinger's pernicious foreign policy tarry in the waiting room to justice and redress. Although the avenue towards justice for the victims of Kissinger's crimes is strewn with obstacles, the door to the discrediting and even prosecution of a former US foreign secretary has been pried open. In the name of justice, let us seize upon the opportunity and put the historical records of Kissinger's realpolitik straight.

Michael Schmitt is the co-ordinator of the International Campaign against Impunity ([www.icaonline.org](http://www.icaonline.org)) and editor of KissingerWatch.

Our full monty for a day is:

**simo salmela** (FYEG Member Organisations' Co-ordinator)

**What is your most marked characteristic?**

I'm busy. And a dreamer at the same time.

**What is your most treasured possession?**

My diaries

**Which of your character traits would you change if you could?**

My cynicism.

What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?

**Suppressed housewives in 50 years family hell.**

**What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

To believe in something; to have a goal; to have someone to love. And possibilities to do all that longer than in two-weeks periods.

**What is it that you most dislike?**

**Totalitarian systems and their side effects. And my favourite breakfast cheese waiting as a warm dry clump on the kitchen table in a morning.**

**What is your greatest fear?**

A life time job for Nokia

**How would you like to die?**

Anyhow, anytime with a moment to think of if the whole mess was worth of it.

**What is your greatest regret?**

There are too many to select the worst one.

**What would you order for your last meal on earth?**

**Potatoes with butter and herring. With fresh radish.**

**What is your favourite occupation?**

Reading a good book.

**Where would you like to live? In Eastern Finland**



**Which talent would you most like to have apart from the ones you already have?**

To write funny witty stories.

**What would you like to be doing in 10 years time? To be a researcher.**

**What is it that you most value in your friends?**

Trendy clothes and shining cars. Also trustworthiness is good sometimes.

**Who are your heroes/heroines in real life?**

**Green/left politicians who are obliged to make compromise decisions with social democrats and others every day.**

**What is your greatest extravagance?**

Long free Sunday mornings, when not alone.

What is your motto?

**"The life is too short to get bored" (stolen from Nietzsche)**

## what's happening in member organisations...

### sumava project 2003 - no forest no future !

From March 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> young greens from Ireland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Sweden, Malta, Belgium and Germany were invited by the green youth of the Czech Republic Mladi Zeleni to Prague in order to prepare the Sumava summer camp. The idea of this project is to spend ten days together in the almost untouched Sumava Mountains in the Czech Republic to learn more about forests in general, environmental protection and social issues related to the damage of forests. But this seminar is not going to be only theoretical (several Czech and other experts will be invited)! The participants are going to do manual work in the forest and to experience the nature while hiking and biking in the beautiful mountains. The detailed program was agreed upon and it includes six thematic workshops. Each national "delegation" is going to present the state of their forests, national culture, meals, drinks, etc. The principal objective is to get European green youth together and find new (or use already successful) ways of protecting forests in Europe. The project in which young greens of eight countries will participate will take place from August 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> and has the title "Sumava 2003. No forest – no future!". For any questions or in case of interest have a look at: <http://www.skas.vutbr.cz/zaloha/sumava/prepar.htm> or mail to: [mladi.zeleni@seznam.cz](mailto:mladi.zeleni@seznam.cz) using the subject "Sumava 2003".

### sweden's green youth general assembly 2003 - a weekend of excitement and fun

Last weekend, on the 7-9th of March, as Sweden's Green Youth, we had our General Assembly (GA) in Lund, in the south of Sweden. Around 120 members showed up in order to make decisions on the future managing of the youth party, the election of a new board, and the election of a new male spokesperson – something the Swedish press has shown quite a bit of interest. The weekend started early on the Friday afternoon, when the Green Party secretary kindly paid us a visit from the 'rooms of power' in Stockholm. He gave us a bit of a pep talk on the EMU since on the 14th of September this year Sweden will say yes or no to the euro. The Swedish green's position on the issue is that the euro is not for us. The main argument being that we, by adopting the euro, will surrender even more power to Brussels – or in this case –Frankfurt. As I'm sure you're already aware, the Swedish greens aren't too keen on Brussels and the politics of, what they call, Eurocrats. A valid point, one could argue, when keeping in mind the geographical position of Sweden on the outskirts of mainland Europe. But, that's a whole different discussion... On the Saturday we elected a new male spokesperson. Einar Westergaard, 24 years old from the very south of Sweden and a veteran within the youth party was elected after a questioning session of the candidates. Our female spokesperson Zaida Catalán decided to run another year and was elected for another year on total consensus. We also decided to raise the membership fee to 60 SEK, which is about 6 euro – a sum we agreed should be affordable for prospective members. One of the more interesting questions at the GA, for me as engaged in FYEG, came up on the Sunday. It was the question of the budget. Our budget is really strained at the moment, and we had to cut down the number of board members and on many other posts, so the question of whether we can afford to be members of different organisations inevitably came up. And it was a divided assembly who debated whether we could afford to stay in FYEG or not. One the one hand we had those who argued that FYEG not is a necessary organisation to be part of – stating that "FYEG is not a human right", and on the other hand those who argued that we should broaden and deepen our connections to the European green movement. I, naturally, lent my voice to the latter. It became clear to me that the people furthest away from Brussels, in the north of Sweden, were the ones most sceptical to FYEG - which sadly shows that a lot of people still associate FYEG with the EU. However, that was a fact we tried to stress. In the end, after a rather heated debate on the budget, the assembly finally voted for an amount put aside for membership in other organisations. That amount is sufficient to pay our membership fee to FYEG so that's settled and the more internationally oriented of us at the gathering were happy for the outcome of the vote. Incidentally, we had a very prominent guest at our assembly – Alex from the FYEG-office very gratefully paid us the visit and presented himself to the assembly. I believe it was very good that our Swedish members got the chance to meet a person from FYEG in "real life"! Thanks again Alex! We are also looking forward to the exchange in May, when green participants from Germany, Malta, Hungary, Netherlands, Yugoslavia, Finland, France, Belgium and England will be coming to Sweden to see how we work and tell us about how they work and share with us their experiences. We also have the summer camp in Sumava Mountains in the Czech republic to look forward to. These events and meetings will, I'm sure, raise awareness and interest in FYEG from the Swedish Green Youth.

All in all it was a great weekend, although I was dog-tired when I got back home. However, I believe we managed to raise awareness about FYEG so you will hopefully see more of Sweden in the near future!

## dem youth on the move

Cvetan Nikolovski the coordinator of DEM - Youth has told me that at the moment the organisation is going through a busy period as there is some project in the pipeline in Macedonia. Cvetan also told me that he is preparing for the Council of coordinators (the highest body) in DEM - Youth. This year seems to be busy for DEM Youth as the elections for new coordinator of DEM - Youth, and new members for Coordinate committee (something like Excom in DEM - Youth) are coming up).



The Council of coordinators will be held from the 4th till the 6th of June 2003 in an educational center "Orbelius" in Probistip (small town in Macedonia. it will be held. For more info contact:

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## what is happening in fyeg...

- The deadline to apply for projects at the European Youth Foundation (EYF) of the Council of Europe is over. The two member organisations that have showed interested and submitted project proposals are the Macedonians and the Hungarians.
- The executive committee will meet between the 27th and the 30th March in Berlin. The agenda for this meeting includes the strategy and goals for 2003, the migration campaign, fundraising, administration, the various projects which are running concurrently, communication tools and member organisations. The executive committee will also meet with Gruene Jugend.
- Call for prep-team members: FYEG's next study session is taking place in July 2003, Strasbourg, at the European Youth Center of Council of Europe, on the Enlargement of the European Union. It is time to start with the preparations of the event - the first meeting of the prep-team should take place in April (the concrete date will be specified later), therefore it is crucial to set up a team of 5 people willing to work on the study session. We are looking for enthusiastic young greens who are:
  - able to participate in the prep-meeting in April and later on in the study session itself
  - interested in the enlargement process,
  - are enthusiastic to work in an international team,
  - are full of bright ideas and would like FYEG to benefit from them ;-)

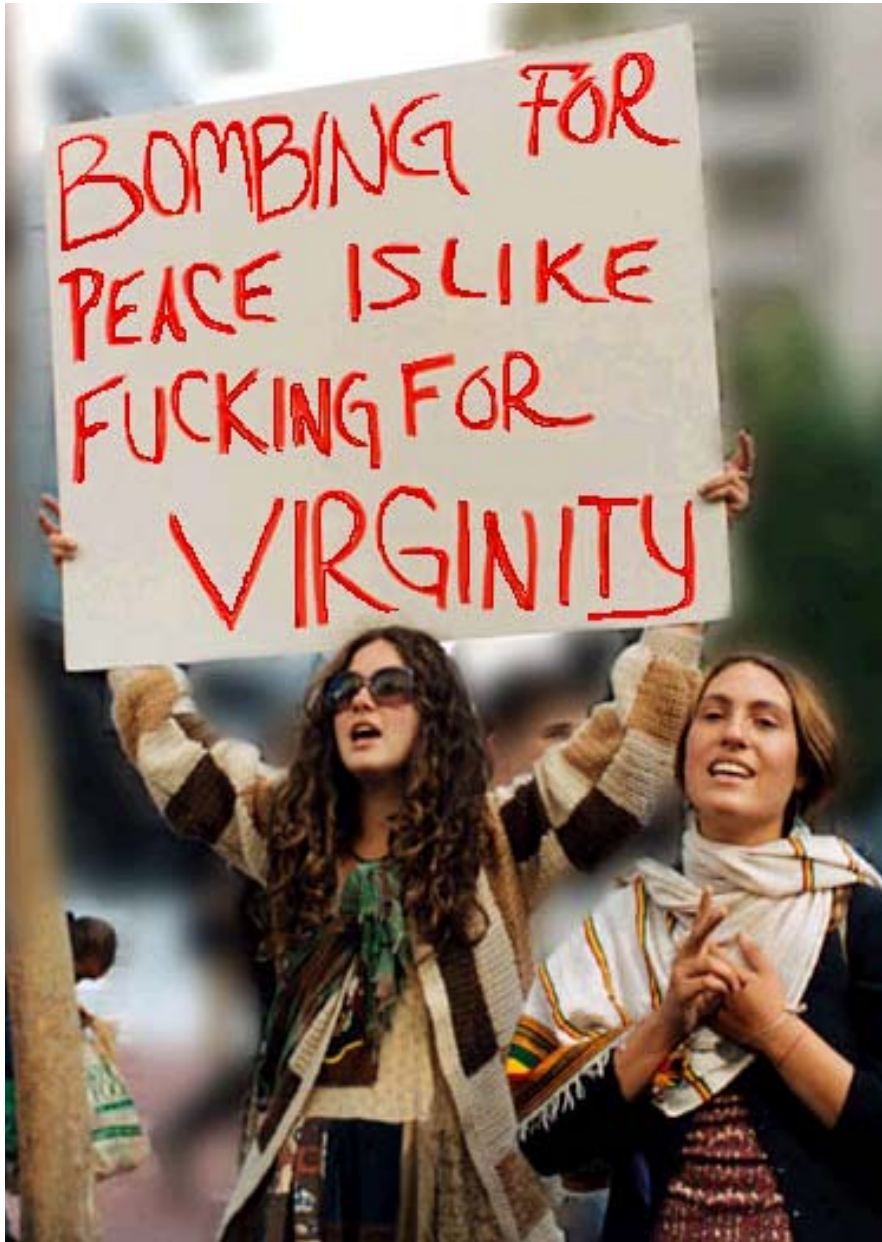
Please send a short introduction about yourself and describe your motivations for working in the prep-team UNTIL THE END OF MARCH.

- Aleksander Jovanovich will be meeting Alexis Smigielski (Delegate International) from the La Souris Verte, Le Forum des Jeunes Verts to talk about the G8 Summit and start the preparations. This meeting will be held in Paris in April. For more information: alexai@voila.fr



Vladimir Putin: "What proof do you have that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction?"

George W Bush: "We kept the receipts."



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