

Katharina Mouratidi



We're demonstrating against the WTO. We totally condemn it as an organism that rules over our national sovereignty, over our independence; it regulates commerce, life, - it restricts the life of the Mexicans, and all people.

Above all, as students we believe that education can't be looked at as a public service, like merchandise. Therefore we demand that it disappear from the agenda of the WTO. There is absolutely no reason why this subject is dealt with when one speaks about trade or public services. We students say, "Education is a constitutional right for all Mexicans. Every citizen of the world has to have access to education - as a right for everyone and not as a public service!" That is what we are protesting for!

Arlen Serna, student, born 1980, Mexico

Katharina Mouratidi



Over forty years ago I went into economics. I switched from studying mathematics and physics into studying economics because of my concern about social and economic issues like poverty, unemployment, and the lack of growth. At that time I was interested both in the problems of the developing countries and the problem of poverty in the United States. In the last few years, particularly since I've been at the World Bank, it's been clear that the central issues of the day are the issues of globalisation, and equity within the global community.

I suppose I could trace my awareness for these issues back to where I grew up - in Gary, Indiana, a steel town which was very marked by periodic unemployment, high levels of inequality, poverty and discrimination. But I think that I had other telling experiences while I was at the World Bank. There I got a chance to see both the inequality and the poverty around the world, and also the inadequacies of the way the issues were being approached in many circles. Under the name of economics, ideas were pushed that were not good economics, that were based on theories that were outdated, on invented assumptions, like for instance perfect information and perfect markets, that were completely inappropriate for developing countries. And the lack of concern for these developing countries, combined with the arrogance with which they asserted their solutions, obviously gave rise to a reaction to try to do something about it.

Joseph Stiglitz, economist, born 1943, USA



I am a member of CNT, the Confédération Nationale du Travail, and am involved with the Libertaires. This means that I believe in the responsibility of the individual and in the equal distribution of property. That way I'm also involved with ACI, at the NO VOX and with the Euromarchés. Together we oppose unemployment, economic insecurity and social exclusion.

Each one of us has to be involved; we have to take the world into our hands again. It's about the redistribution of riches – the future lies in another way of living. This means that we stop consuming, that we act responsibly, that we know why we're in the world and what the most important basic values are.

It's no longer possible to go on living like this – this is an inhumane world. Money rules, consumption. Consumption is very frustrating; buying something. No creativity, nothing behind it. This is cold, at the end there's only trash. It is simply much better – without having money – to make things, to use them again, to create things new. To create communication, at least to have a society that creates values and doesn't only consume.

Michel, unemployed engineer, France



I'm engaged because I feel, as a journalist, we are "watchdogs", and I'm engaged so I can help women, especially at the grassroots, to understand what is going on. My main mission as part of the movement is to gather information and disseminate it to the local people. Our paper speaks for the grassroots. I want to assist these people, so at least they know what's happening, and also to make their views known to the other people and the policy makers.

What I would like to communicate, especially to the journalists out there: in whatever we do, as writers and as watchdogs, we have the right to freedom of expression. And we have to use that to the fullest, to air the issues, especially for those without a voice, the people at the grassroots. Because they're the ones who are the most affected. And they are left out of most of the decision-making processes at an international, national, and regional level. So I feel that as female journalists we owe it to them to disseminate information particularly to the marginalised, who are mostly women and children. We are privileged, in that in most countries we have community radio stations, and I would urge all the journalists to utilise their means to communicate, to disseminate the right information to their people.

Diana Mulilo-Mwiliwa, Journalist and graphic designer, born 1973, Zambia

◀ Pages 50-53 are from *Venceremos – The Other Globalisation*. (Published by Edition Braus, Germany 2006).



The community of Sarayacu is located at the banks of river Bobonaza in the Amazon rainforest of south-west Ecuador. The remote village can only be reached by canoe in a two-day trip or with little four-seater airplanes.



Financed by the program for rural electrification of the Ecuadorian government, a year ago solar panels have been installed in every house in Sarayacu. Instead of lightening their huts with kerosene lamps causing a lot of grime and smoke, the families now can enjoy illumination at night without having to fear harmful consequences for their health.



Cooking in the community is still done in the traditional way with wood. Three trunks are laid together on the floor - in form of a triangle, the pots are put on top of them. Often the children are in charge of finding the firewood and to carry it home. Since there are no electric devices at all, domestic work is very time consuming and physical hard for the women.



A group of Sarayacu youths is attending a computer workshop - held in conjunction with Mapuche-Indians from Chile - in the informatics center of the village. The classes are intended to equip the students with the necessary abilities to produce visual material for the awareness raising work of the community: their website, press publications, handouts etc.

In 1999, during the studies at the College of Fine Arts in Berlin, photography became the principal medium of my dedication and work. Ever since then the projects I carried out have focused on social and political issues. My vested interest hereby is in individuals and grassroots movements engaged - globally or locally - for positive social change and a more just and sustainable future. Photography therefore to me is not only a technique to document and make visible subjects that are underrepresented in the western world, and to give those living at the margins of our society, a voice and a weight in the public perception. It is also an effective tool to shade a light on the tireless efforts of millions of activists from all over the world and to draw the public attention to the challenging solutions they put forward to tackle the overwhelming global problems. Since I see photography rather as an

Katharina Mouratidi (b. 1971) lives in Berlin and is educated from College of Fine Arts in Berlin. Mouratidi's photographs have been published and exhibited in Europe, the United States and China. Solo and group shows include: *Discovery Of The Meeting Place* 2008, FotoFest Houston (USA); *What We're Collecting Now*, George Eastman House (USA); *Lianzhou Photography Festival*, Lianzhou (China); *The Other Globalisation*, Melkweg Gallery, Amsterdam (The Netherlands) and Potsdamer Platz, Berlin (Germany); *Post.doc*, Museum of Photography, Thessaloniki (Greece). Recent publications of her work are included in such magazines as *British Marie Claire* (Great Britain), *Ojo de Pez* (Spain), *Colors Magazine and Marie Claire* (Italy), *Frankfurter Rundschau Magazine* (Germany), *VivaDonna Magazine* (Greece). Her photographs are in numerous collections, including the George Eastman House (USA), Musée de la Photographie Charleroi (Belgium), Museum of Photography (Greece), Museum for Arts and Crafts (Germany), and Collection Joaquim Paiva (Brazil).



Everywhere close to the oil-wells so called metcheros - matches - can be found. They are burning associated gas, a side product of oil drilling. The constantly burning torches are causing great heat in their surrounding - killing thousands of insects seeking light - and are bringing about high air pollution with severe health effects for the people living in their neighborhood, like headaches, respiratory problems and cancer.

intense form of communication and joint development, than as an aggressive act of shooting, during the development process of my projects as well as for the exhibitions and presentations of the works, very often I collaborate closely with activists, networks, community groups, and NGOs.

To reach the maximum public possible with the subjects I am working on and to serve as a serious challenge to today's information society, the distribution strategy for my images and texts is based on different foundations: exhibitions in art spaces, galleries and museums, as well as in highly frequented public spaces such as in the metro, in public squares, on billboards etc; Publications in magazines and newspapers; The use of the material in public actions such as in campaigns etc.