



Unionists, unemployed workers, and landless peasants march on the capital from four corners of the country. Brasília, Brazil

**Global Day of Action  
Party and Protest  
against 'Free Trade'  
and the WTO** May 1998

**"Riots are not just taking place on the streets of Jakarta but also here in Geneva. Alienation has reached the streets of the North too."**

— Martin Khor of Third World Network, May 1998

The first global day of action is called by groups involved in Peoples' Global Action's inaugural meeting and takes place in May 1998 to coincide with both the

G8 meeting of the world's eight most powerful leaders in Birmingham, Britain, and the WTO's Second Ministerial meeting in Geneva, where global, corporate-friendly trade rules are being determined. More than 70 cities take part in the first globally coordinated action against these multilateral institutions by grassroots groups demanding their abolition rather than reform.

Party and Protest!

# RECLAIM THE STREETS!

Create a Day From Berkeley: Parade, Street Party, Music, Dancing, bikes, cafe in the street... spontaneous acts of art, love & rebellion



## SATURDAY MAY 16

7pm • Berkeley BART  
March/Bike To The Street Party

May 16 is International Street Party Day - a day to protest globalization, GATT and the World Trade Organization, Transnational corporations (and their insidious world trade bureaucratic puppets) are impoverishing local communities around the world. The Street Party is a way to reclaim space for people to live, breathe, and dance their defiance to the car, and the capitalist system that spawned it. Join millions world wide in taking back Berkeley and the power!

Bring friends, kids, sound systems, musical instruments, decorations, bikes, games, costumes, puppets, roller blades, furniture, skate boards, stiffs, frisbees, unicycles, toys, art, propo sticks, pot luck food.

On 2 May, hundreds of thousands of peasants, farmers, tribal people, and workers from all regions of India take to the streets of Hyderabad against a backdrop of a wave of peasant suicides, calling for a rejection of neoliberal policies and demanding the immediate withdrawal of India from the WTO. Two weeks later in the Philippines, 10,000 fisherfolk march in Manila, calling for the cancellation of

Opp. Central Sin) for March to secret party location...



















may 16

URBANK  
BIG \$ DOLLAR CORP  
SHELL  
GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION  
RECLAIM THE STREETS  
STREET PARTY  
for more details... <http://www.geocities.com/Reclaim/344>  
R-055-22746 on the day AND... Be Tired To PIRATE

treaties signed with the WTO and APEC, "in order to reorient our food production and market to feed the Filipino people and not aristocrats abroad". In Nepal, a forum and publication against globalization is born out of workshops attended by farmers, teachers, and tea plantation workers. On 16 May, the first global street party takes place, called by London Reclaim the Streets, under the

# GLOBAL STREET PARTY '98

Prohibitions: no drugs, no violence, no alcohol, Praha, Toronto, Vancouver, Seattle, San Francisco, New York, Boston, Göttingen, Tokyo, Lyon, Paris, London, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Amsterdam, Madrid, Zurich, Birmingham, Dublin, Garmy, St. Ann, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane... ULICE LIDEM!

 LIFE OF MARIJUANA	 STOP ALCOHOL	 GLOBAL ACTION
 LIFE OF MARIJUANA	 STOP ALCOHOL	 GLOBAL ACTION
 LIFE OF MARIJUANA	 STOP ALCOHOL	 GLOBAL ACTION
 LIFE OF MARIJUANA	 STOP ALCOHOL	 GLOBAL ACTION
 LIFE OF MARIJUANA	 STOP ALCOHOL	 GLOBAL ACTION
 LIFE OF MARIJUANA	 STOP ALCOHOL	 GLOBAL ACTION

16.5. nám. Míru  
start 14<sup>30</sup> - 17<sup>00</sup> průvod Prahou

slogan "our resistance will be as transnational as capital". Over 30 street parties happen around the world, spreading carnival and rebellion from Helsinki to Sydney, Berkeley to Toronto, Ljubljana to Ghent, Lyon to Berlin. In Prague, the biggest single mobilization since the Velvet Revolution in 1989 brings over 3,000 mostly young people out for a mobile street party, which is attacked by police, and



Nick Cobbing

Clowning around against the G8, Global Street Party. Birmingham, UK



Thomas Schlijper

Cars give way to people, Global Street Party. Utrecht, Netherlands



KRIS archive

India's peoples' movements converge against the WTO. Hyderabad, India

ends with an assault on several McDonald's and other transnational stores. The following days' media saturation brings issues of globalization to the forefront of public discussion for the first time since the Czech Republic accepted capitalism in 1989. Meanwhile, people in a tiny midwestern town in the US decide to block the highway with a picnic table. No-one comes past to disturb their picnic the entire

day, except a single truck, which they turn back. In Birmingham, UK where the G8 is meeting, 75,000 Jubilee 2000 anti-debt campaigners make a human chain around the summit, and a Reclaim the Streets party blocks the town centre with 6,000 people, many dressed as clowns. The eight world leaders choose to flee the city to a local manor in order to continue their meeting in a more tranquil location.

In Geneva, which is preparing for the following week's WTO ministerial and celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT – the forerunner of the WTO), the media publish scare stories of anticipated riots, and protesters are turned back from the borders. However, over 10,000 march to the WTO headquarters, a few banks have their windows smashed, the WTO





**Protesters respond to the presence of the WTO Director-General's Mercedes in their midst. Geneva, Switzerland**

Director-General's Mercedes is turned over, and three days of the heaviest rioting ever seen in the city follows. The security surrounding the summit on the final day is so robust that many delegates miss their flights home. It was not the last time that a city hosting the WTO ministerial was to be filled with billowing clouds of tear gas...

Four days later, Brazil's 50,000 landless peasants,

unemployed workers, and trade unionists who had been marching from the four cardinal points of the country, converge on the capital, Brasília. During the week as they approach the city they steal food from supermarkets which is redistributed to feed the poor. The global scale and co-ordination of the protests goes unnoticed to most observers but China's English-language paper, *The China Daily*, says of the protest in

Geneva: "It was planned as a grand birthday celebration to mark the fiftieth year of the free trade system. But the second ministerial conference of the WTO will instead be remembered as a turning point in the rush towards globalization."